ピアノの森 9

一色まこと

モーニングKC 1446

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The Perfect World of KAI

I DIDN'T...
UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT KAI.
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT KAI.

ピアノの森

MAKOTO ISSHIKI

The Perfect World of KAI

9

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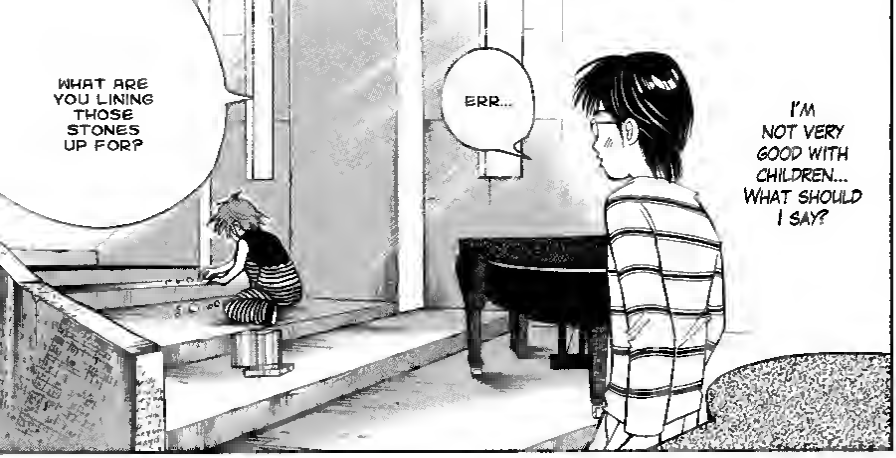
This work is a piece of fiction.
Any resemblances to actual people, organizations, and/or events are purely coincidental.

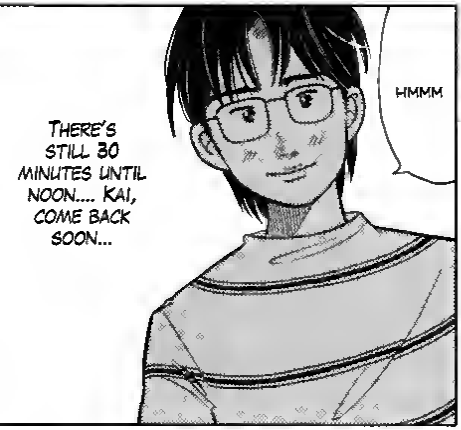
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
UMMM...
SORRY, I'M JUST A HOUSE SITTER HERE—
YEAH, YOU'RE AMAMIYA, KAI'S FRIEND!
TEACHER TOLD ME ABOUT YOU THIS MORNING
Chapter 68
Option 1

YEAH, MY SON'S TAKING PIANO LESSONS FROM KAI
Pitter Patter
...
TEACH-ER?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
"I HAVE WORK IN THE AFTERNOON..."
IT'S A TAD EARLY...
BUT SINCE I'VE ALREADY MADE THE CURRY, ALL I'LL NEED TO DO IS COOK SOME RICE...
YEP, AND THIS HERE'S THE LESSON FEE...

WHAT IS THAT KID DOING...?
STONES...?
...
HIS NAME IS DAIKI.
HE'S IN FOURTH GRADE, DESPITE HOW SHORT HE IS.
FOURTH GRADE? I THOUGHT HE WAS MUCH YOUNGER.
TO TOP IT OFF, HE GOT BULLIED SO MUCH AT SCHOOL HE STOPPED GOING
UNTILL THEN, HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT EVEN THOUGH HE'S SHORT, HE'S VERY STUBBORN, AND NOT VERY LOVABLE
BUT WE CAME TO KNOW KAI ABOUT A YEAR AGO.
HE'S NOT REALLY TALENTED IN PLAYING THE PIANO
...
Splash
Splash

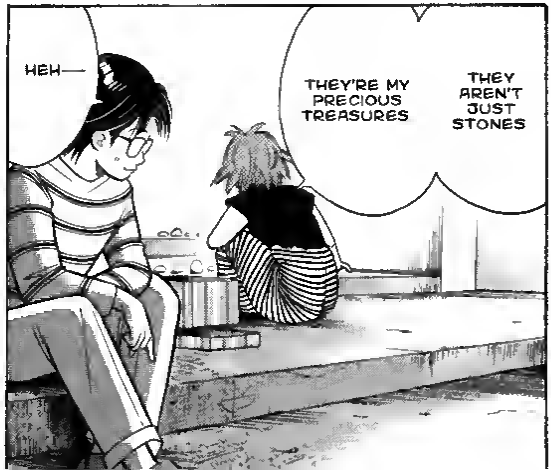
FINISH WHAT YOU'RE HERE TO DO, AND GO!!
GAAAAH, YOU'RE SO ANNOYING, MOM!
I'M TRULY, *TRULY* THANKFUL THAT KAI IS HERE FOR US
BUT EVER SINCE WE'VE BEEN COMING HERE, HE'S BECOME MORE AND MORE WILLING TO GO TO SCHOOL
SEE! I TOLD YOU HE'S NOT VERY LOVABLE AT ALL
OK, OK I'LL LEAVE
YOU CAN'T JUST DO THAT!
NOBODY ASKED YOU ANYTHING, AND YOU JUST KEEP GOING ON AND ON...


WHAT ARE YOU LINING THOSE STONES UP FOR?
ERR...
I'M NOT VERY GOOD WITH CHILDREN... WHAT SHOULD I SAY?


THERE'S STILL 30 MINUTES UNTIL NOON.... KAI, COME BACK SOON...
HMMM

TEACHER TOLD ME I COULD DO WITH THE PLACE WHATEVER I WANT DURING HIS LESSONS
NO REASON

AHH, THIS ONE'S PRETTY!


HEH—
THEY'RE MY PRECIOUS TREASURES
THEY AREN'T JUST STONES

LOOK, THIS GUY'S ANTONIO. SHE'S HIS GIRLFRIEND
YEAH, SHE'S THE ONLY GIRL STONE OF THE GROUP
AHHH, THAT ONE'S CALLED MADONNA.
MADONNA
HUH?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
AND THIS ONE IS ICHIRO
THAT'S SASUKE
THIS HUGE ONE IS GOMAEMON
YIKES.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING DECLARING YOURSELF "BIG PAL?" YOU'RE NO PAL OF MINE!
I'M YOUR BIG PAL AMAMIYA SYUHEI
YOU...

HUH? MULTIPLICATION TABLES?
THANK GOD.
WELL I'M SORRY, BUT NONE OF THESE ARE CALLED AMAMIYA OR SYUHEI
...
IF YOU LOOK AROUND, THERE'S A BUNCH OF OTHER STUFF I WROTE AS WELL
TEACHER TOLD ME I CAN WRITE ANYWHERE
AHHH, YEAH I WROTE THOSE
ONE THING
SURE
CAN I ASK YOU ONE THING?
UMM

IT'S NOT LIKE WRITING ON A PIECE OF PAPER. YOU REALLY HAVE TO CONCENTRATE TO WRITE IT HERE.
EHMM, I GUESS WRITING IT IN A NOTEBOOK COULD WORK, BUT I HAVE AN EASIER TIME REMEMBERING IT HERE.
WHY DO YOU WRITE IT HERE, INSTEAD OF IN A NOTEBOOK?
SO THAT'S WHY THE INSIDE OF THIS BUILD-ING...
I SEE
I EVEN REMEMBER WHERE I WROTE WHAT, AND HOW I WROTE IT DOWN!
EVERY DAY?!
HE CLEANS IT EVERY SINGLE DAY
YEAH! THAT WAY HE CAN EVEN STUDY WHILE HE'S CLEAN-ING THE PLACE.

Ahhh, I don't have any more notebooks to write in!!
NAAAAH IT STARTED OUT OF LAZINESS WHEN TEACHER RAN OUT OF NOTEBOOKS
IT WASN'T AN IDEA FOR STUDYING
SO THIS IS
THE IDEA KAI CAME UP WITH FOR STUDYING
OH YEAH!! I'VE GOT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!!
SPY DASH
ALTHOUGH VERY CRUDE, IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S SUFFERED SEVERE BULLYING
THAT'S GOOD, DAIKI!
THOSE BASTARDS HAVEN'T CALLED ME AN IDIOT ANYMORE
BUT THANKS TO THAT, I DON'T GET LAUGHED AT ANY-MORE

IDIOT!
TRASH!
ASSHOLE!
FATTY!
DIE!
SQUID!
SLICED MEAT!
BALLS
FOOL!
DEAD MEAT!
PON
PON
PON
PON

I GOT A FAVOR TO ASK
BUT
I REALLY WANT TO US TO BECOME FRIENDS
DON'T COME OVER TO PLAY WITH ME.
IT'S CALLED "THE BALLAD OF BAS-TARDS"
THERE! THE FIRST ONE IS DONE!
SFX BOM BOM BOM BOM

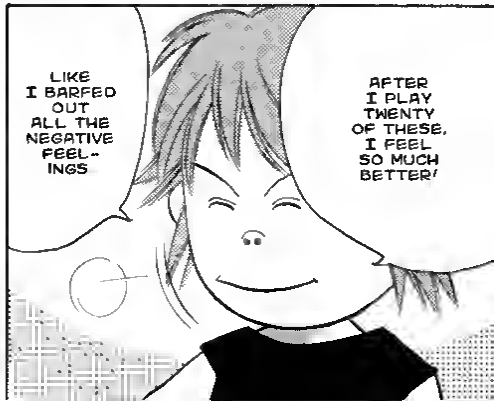
WHAT AN INTERESTING MELODY
THAT'S GREAT, OAIKI!

WOW
I'VE COMPOSED MORE THAN FORTY OF THEM

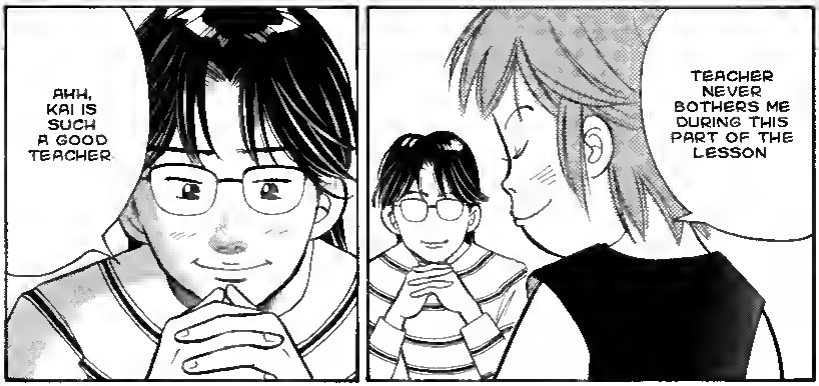
IT'S TRUE
TEACHER WANTED ME TO DO THAT

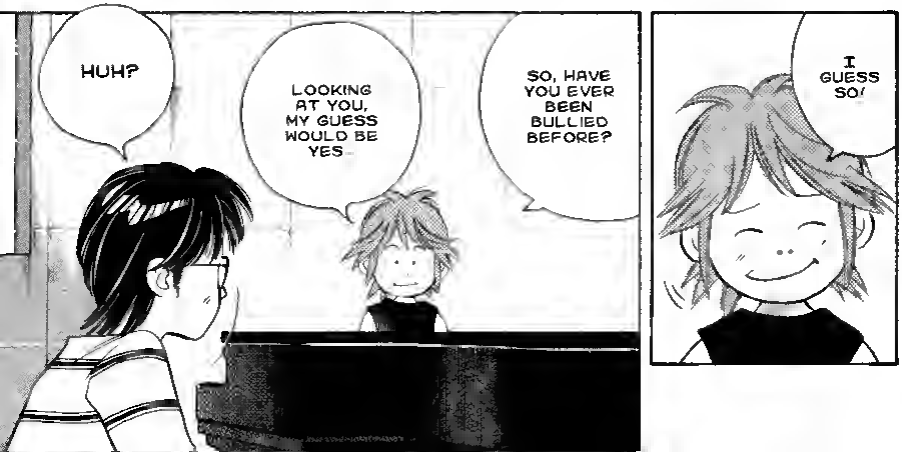
AH, IT'S NOT THAT GOOD,
BUT LOOK, I'VE WRITTEN THE MUSICAL SCORE DOWN THERE

I SEE
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE PIANO COULD BE USED FOR THAT


AFTER I PLAY TWENTY OF THESE, I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER!
LIKE I BARFED OUT ALL THE NEGATIVE FEEL-INGS

EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO CANDY AND STUFF, THE FREEBIES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!!
DON'T MAKE FUN OF IT!
OPTION? SO THEN IT'S AN EXTRA... NOT A LESSON.
IT'S "OPTION 1," A CHANCE TO RECOVER A NORMAL STATE OF MIND.


AHH, KAI IS SUCH A GOOD TEACHER.
TEACHER NEVER BOTHERS ME DURING THIS PART OF THE LESSON.


HUH?
LOOKING AT YOU, MY GUESS WOULD BE YES.
SO, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BULLIED BEFORE?
I GUESS SO.

YEAH.
I HAVE
haha
BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
THEY MADE ME PULL MY PANTS DOWN IN FRONT OF EVERYONE
GRAB
I'M SO ANGRY!!
THAT'S AWFUL.

WAIT, I...
I'LL TEACH YOU!
I GOT IT, SYUHEI!
YOU PLAY!
HUH?
BUT— BUT—
I'LL DO THE SINGING ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PLAY A SONG YOU LIKE!
YOU'LL BE FINE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO PLAY IT PERFECT-LY
HEY, FORGET ABOUT THE MUSICAL SCORE!!
IT'S EASY!

I'M YOUR TEACHER NOW! ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY!
YOU CAN READ THE SHEET MUSIC LATER, WHEN YOU GET BETTER AT THE PIANO.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'D UNDERSTAND THAT STUFF, ANYWAY.
WE CAN START WITH ONE FINGER ON EACH HAND!
UNDERSTAND? ONE FINGER!
READY, SET!
IDIOT! TRASH! SQUID! FOOL!

I HATE ALL YOU BASTARDS!
DEAD MEAT
ASSHOLE
BALLS
SLICED MEAT
DIE FATTY
LOOK!
I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!
...
I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!

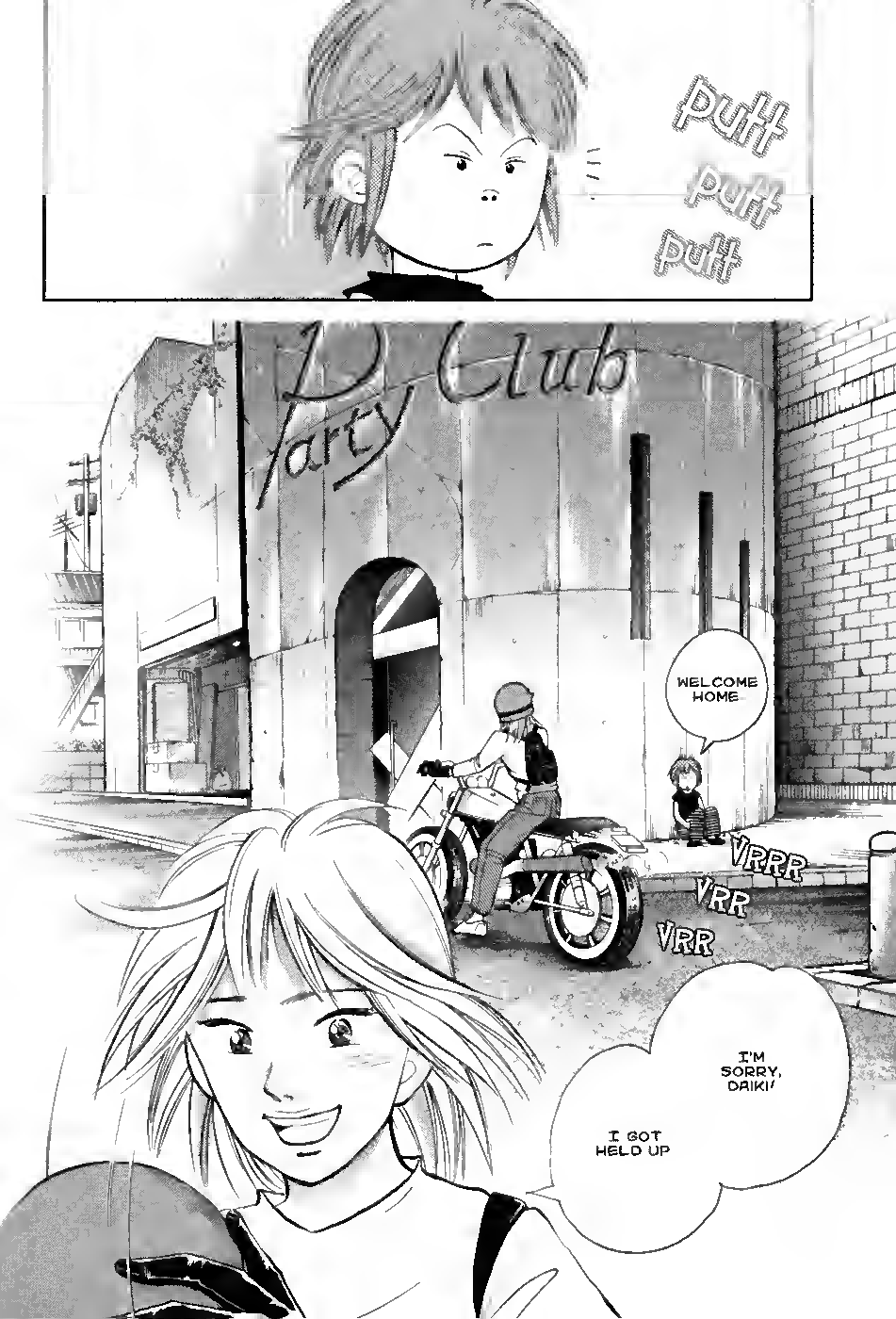
PON
LIKE THAT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER I'LL KILL YOU.
YOU ARE A BUNCH OF BALL-LESS THUGS!
BASTARDS
PON
PON
PON
PON
JUST LIKE THAT! WORK OUT ALL YOUR NEGATIVE FEELINGS!!

I GOT NO USE FOR A GOON THAT TALKS BACK TO ME.
OH OH OH
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!
?
WHAT THE HELL SYUHEI
YOU CAN REALLY PLAY!!

PON
PON
PON
PON
PON

MY...
MY HANDS...

WANTED TO PLAY THE PIANO SO BADLY...


puff
puff
puff
Party Club
WELCOME HOME
VRRR
VRR
VRR
I'M SORRY, DAIKI!
I GOT HELD UP

AMAMIYA?
TEACH-ING?
I'M TEACHING HIM
YEAH, HE'S HERE
WASN'T AMAMIYA THERE?
YOU COULD HAVE WAITED INSIDE
SO YOU CAN'T GO INSIDE RIGHT NOW.
YEAH
IT'S OPTION 1, A CHANCE TO RECOVER A NORMAL STATE OF MIND.

PERHAPS...
PERHAPS I CAN GET ALONG WITH MY OWN PIANO MORE.
PERHAPS I CAN PLAY THE PIANO.
WOW!!
IT'S ALL IN THE WRIST! GOTTA SNAP IT

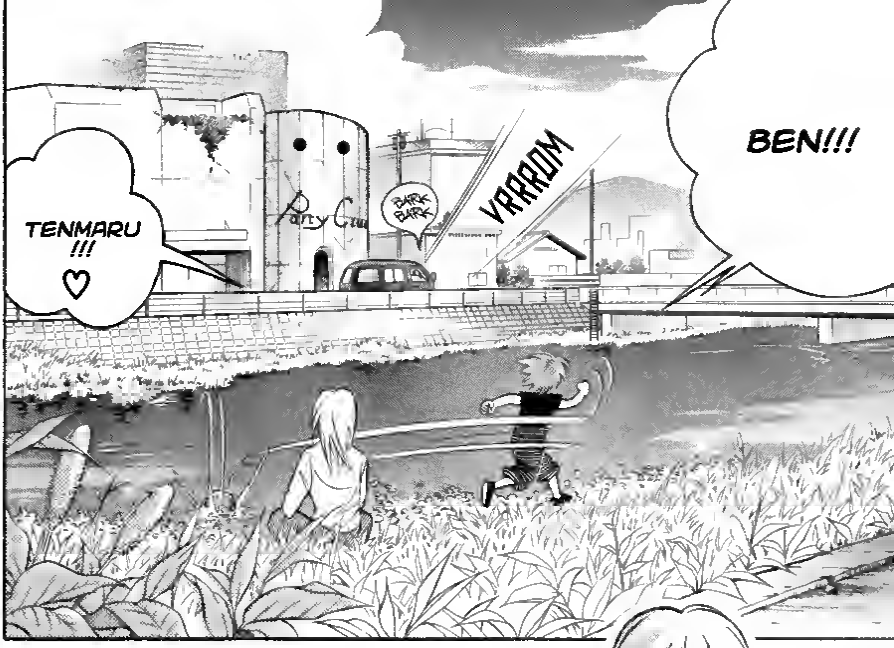
Option① END

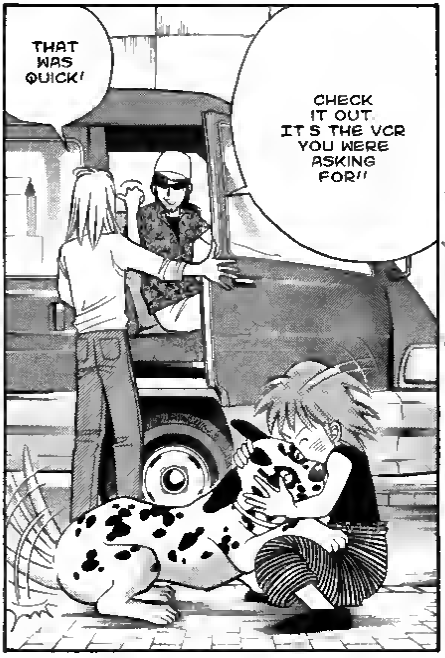
AFTER A 21 DAY BREAK...
THE PIECE I PLAYED...
WAS CALLED "BALLAD OF BASTARDS,"

COMPOSED BY
A BULLIED KID,
CALLED DAIKI.

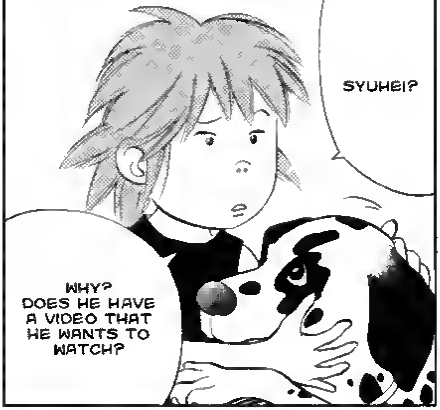
Chapter 69

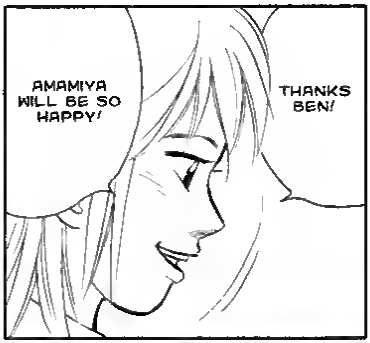
A Battle Invitation

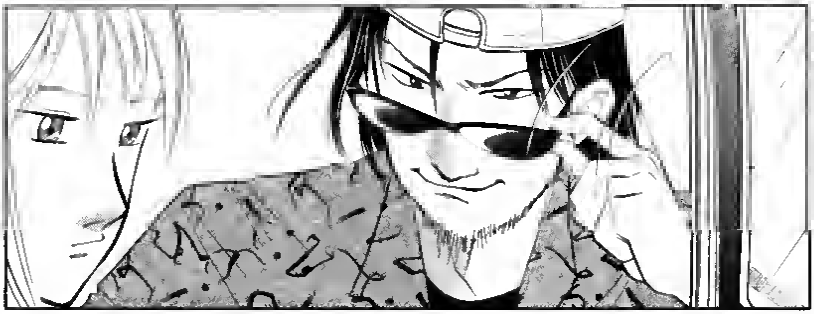

BEN!!!
VRRROM
PARK PARK
TENMARU !!!

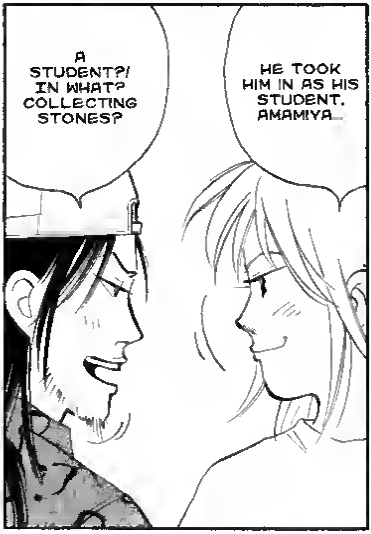

THAT WAS QUICK!
CHECK IT OUT. IT'S THE VCR YOU WERE ASKING FOR!!

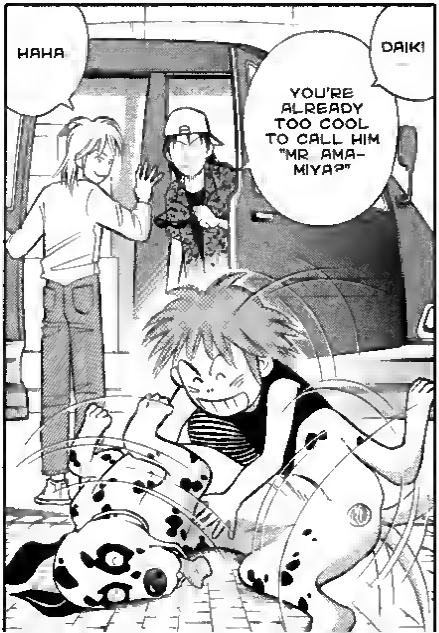
Tenmaru ♥


SYUHEI?
WHY? DOES HE HAVE A VIDEO THAT HE WANTS TO WATCH?

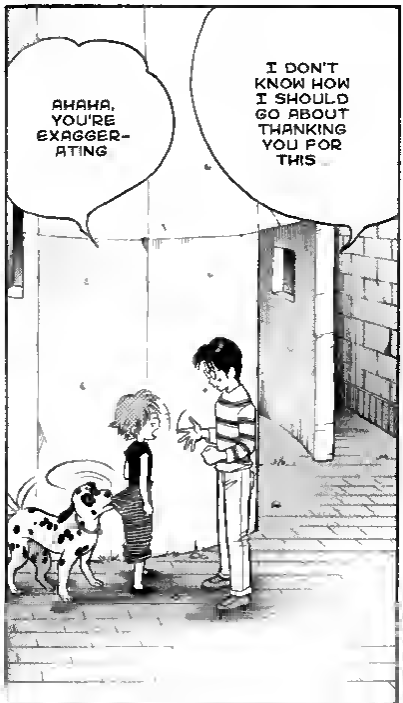

THANKS BEN!
AMAMIYA WILL BE SO HAPPY!




A STUDENT?! IN WHAT? COLLECTING STONES?
HE TOOK HIM IN AS HIS STUDENT. AMAMIYA...


HAHA
DAIKI
YOU'RE ALREADY TOO COOL TO CALL HIM "MR. AMA-MIYA?"

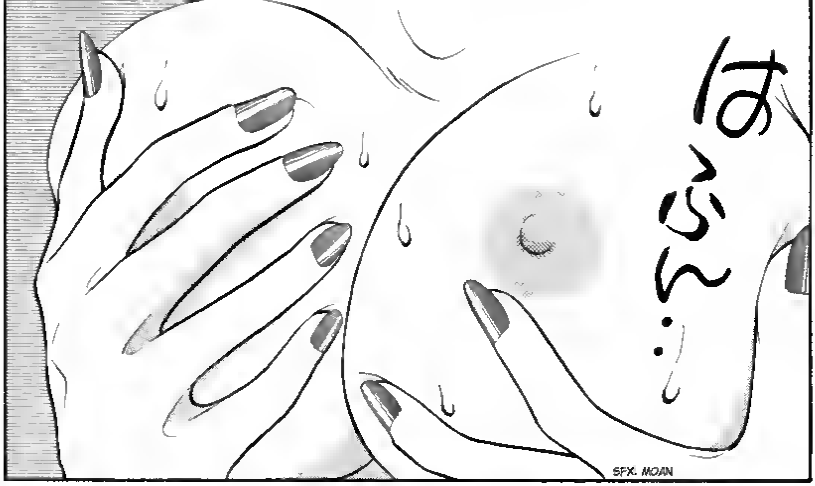
SYUHE!!
AHH! YOU'RE DONE!


I DON'T KNOW HOW I SHOULD GO ABOUT THANKING YOU FOR THIS
AHAHA, YOU'RE EXAGGER-ATING

ARE YOU OK NOW, SYUHEI?
DID YOU PLAY UNTIL YOU'RE ALL CALMED DOWN?

YEAH
THANKS, DAIKI!

THEN YOU MUST HAVE HEARD IT!!
Club
IT WAS NOTHING
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANY THANKS!
YEAH WE'RE THINKING 'DUDE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?", BUT HE'S JUST BEING A NICE GUY...
AHHH, HE'S PRETTY SERIOUS ABOUT LOOKING AFTER DAIKI COMPLETELY PLAYING ALONG WITH HIM
♪ "THE BALLAD OF BASTARDS"
YOU MUST HAVE LISTENED TO DAIKI SING THAT SONG!
NO, NO THE 35TH IS MUCH WORSE
I GET SCARED HE'S GONNA FEED MY BALLS TO THE PIGS!!
WAS IT THE 28TH? THE ONE WHERE HE'S FEEDING THE BASTARDS' BALLS TO THE PIGS!? THAT ONE MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL!
WHOA, I DON'T EVEN WANNA KNOW
YEAH.
WHAT A NICE, STRAIGHT-FORWARD SONG!
Ahaha...

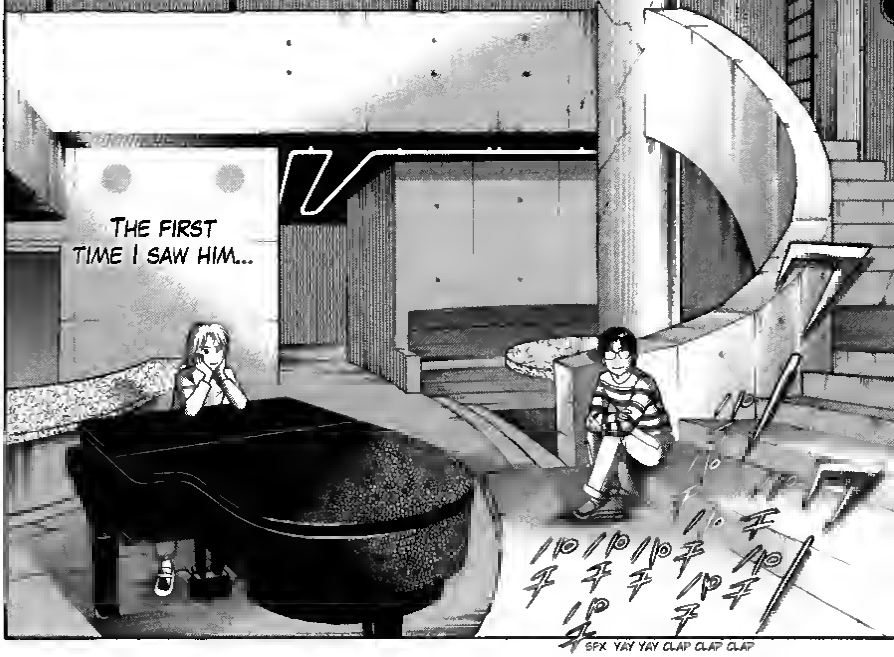

はぅん…
SFX. MOAN

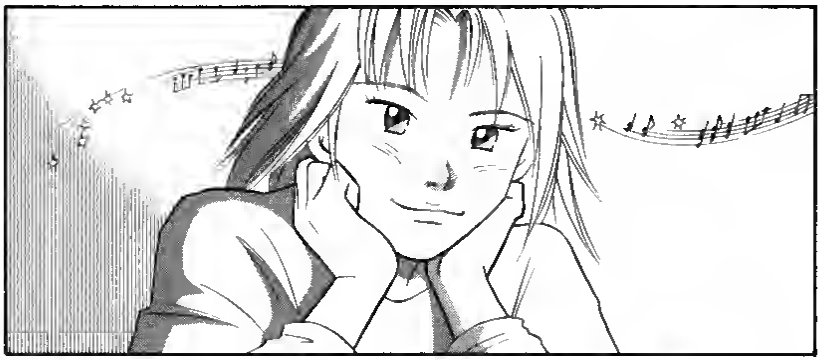
SFX. MOAN
あ…
H...
HUGE!

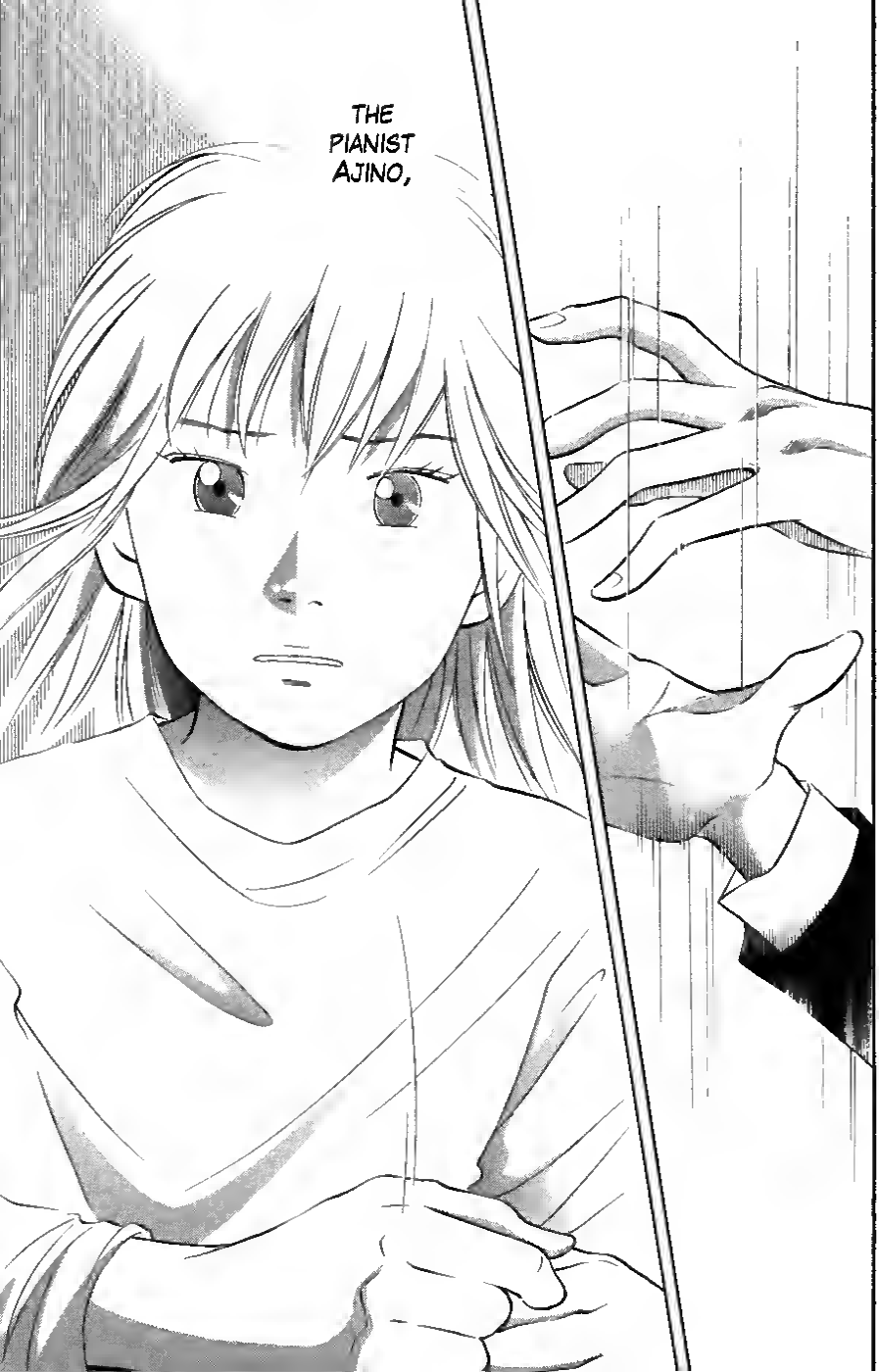
AND THEY LET ME BORROW IT FOR A BIT.
AH, WELL. A STORE JUST HAPPENED TO GO OUT OF BUSINESS!
NO... I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE SCREEN...
WHY WOULD YOU THINK I WAS TALKING ABOUT HER?
I KNOW, RIGHT!? THIS IS MARILYNN ODAWARA. HER DEBUT AS "H-CUP GIRL" WAS A SMASH-HIT!
AHH!!
THE SCREEN IS SO BIG. WE CAN'T POSSIBLY WATCH ANYTHING IN PRIVATE NOW...
I'M REALLY SORRY, AMAMIYA
Amamiya's into something?!
HEY...
EH? IT'S NOT? AND HERE I WAS, THINKING YOU WERE GOING TO SHOW ME SOME "TREASURE" VIDEO
ME TOO.
WHAT I WANTED TO WATCH ISN'T SOMETHING SO WEIRD THAT I NEED TO WATCH IN PRIVATE...
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY...

DAIKI'S GETTING A TASTE OF MARILYNN'S TECHNIQUES ...!!!
OH, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIM.
DOING !?
WHAT IS THIS WOMAN
BYE NOW!!! KAI, DON'T FORGET HOW TO USE IT!!!
Enough!!
That girl was trying to show me her butthole!!
BU-BU-BUTT-HOLE !!
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME!!
NOW, DAIKI, YOU COME ALONG WITH ME!!

SAJINO
SHUT UP!!
BUTT HOLE!
I THOUGHT I'D BRING IT SO WE COULD WATCH IT TOGETHER...
YEAH
A VIDEO OF AJINO PERFORMING AS A PIANIST...
I DIDN'T THINK A VIDEO LIKE THIS EXISTED
NO WAY! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE.
PERHAPS YOU'RE ALREADY SICK OF WATCHING THEM...?


THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM...
SFX: YAY YAY CLAP CLAP CLAP



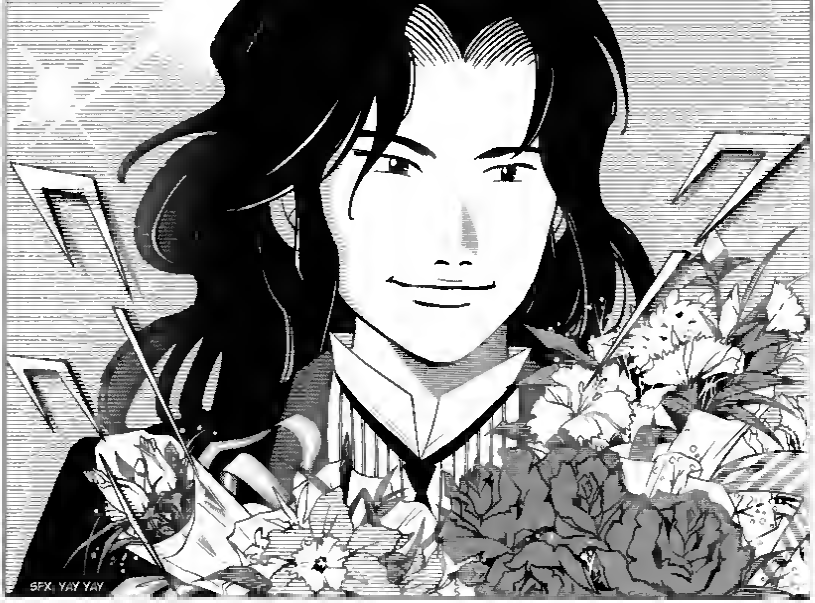

THE
PIANIST
AJINO,

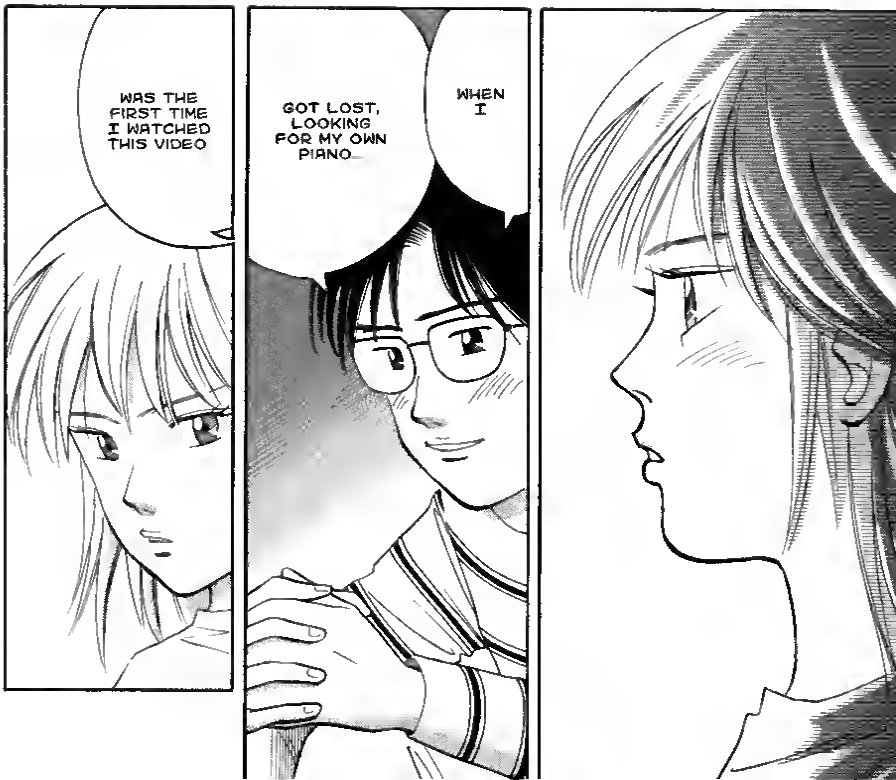
SIMPLY
WAS JUST
IN THE VIDEO
THE YOUNG PIANIST
HE CLEARLY WASN'T THE AJINO SOUSUKE I KNOW TODAY...

挑戦状 END

SFX. YAY YAY CLAP CLAP
THE YOUNG PIANIST, AJINO SOUSUKE— THAT MAN
SFX. YAY YAY YAY
IN THE VIDEO...

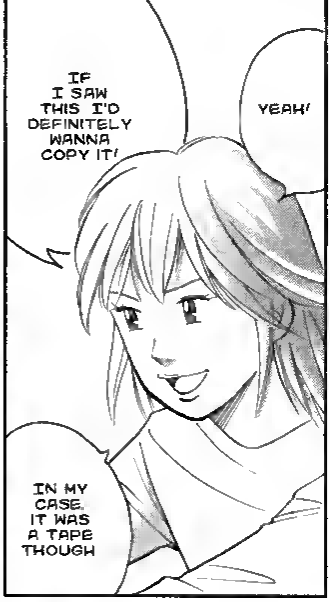
Chapter 70
Kai in 4:30
STOOD AT THE CENTER OF AN UNFADING APPLAUSE FOR AN ENCORE.

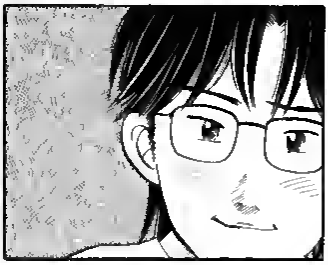

SFX: YAY YAY

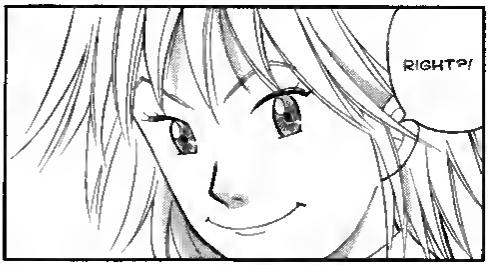

WAS THE FIRST TIME I WATCHED THIS VIDEO
GOT LOST, LOOKING FOR MY OWN PIANO...
WHEN I

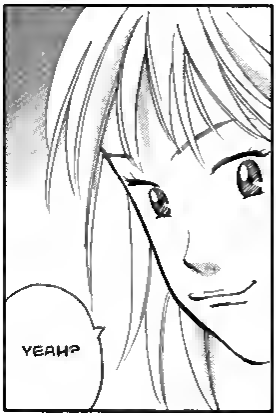
ONE TIME,
AND SINCE THEN, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STOP MYSELF FROM WATCHING IT EVERY DAY
I WAS COPYING AJINO'S PLAY,
AND GOT SCOLDED BY MY TEACHER.
HAHA, YEAH.
I'VE BEEN SCOLDED FOR COPYING HIM, TOO.
YOU TOO?!

YOU COULDN'T COPY IT EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO, IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT SKILL.
BUT BEING ABLE TO COPY IT... THAT WOULD REQUIRE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF SKILL.


IF I SAW THIS I'D DEFINITELY WANNA COPY IT!
YEAH!
IN MY CASE, IT WAS A TAPE THOUGH

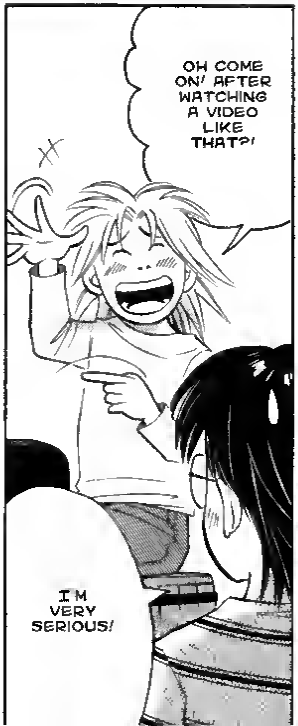


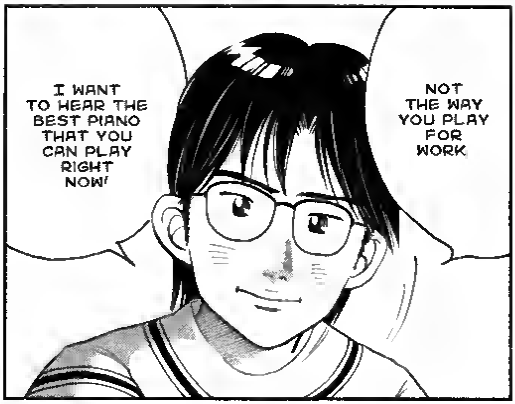

RIGHT?!

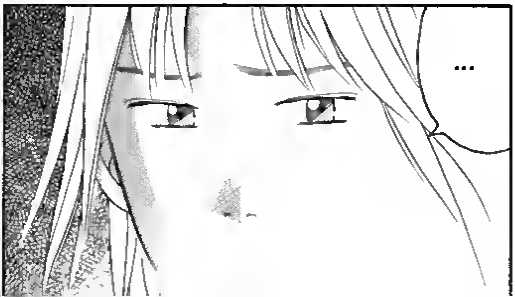

YEAH?

I HAVE A REQUEST.
KAI,

I WANT TO HEAR YOU PLAY.

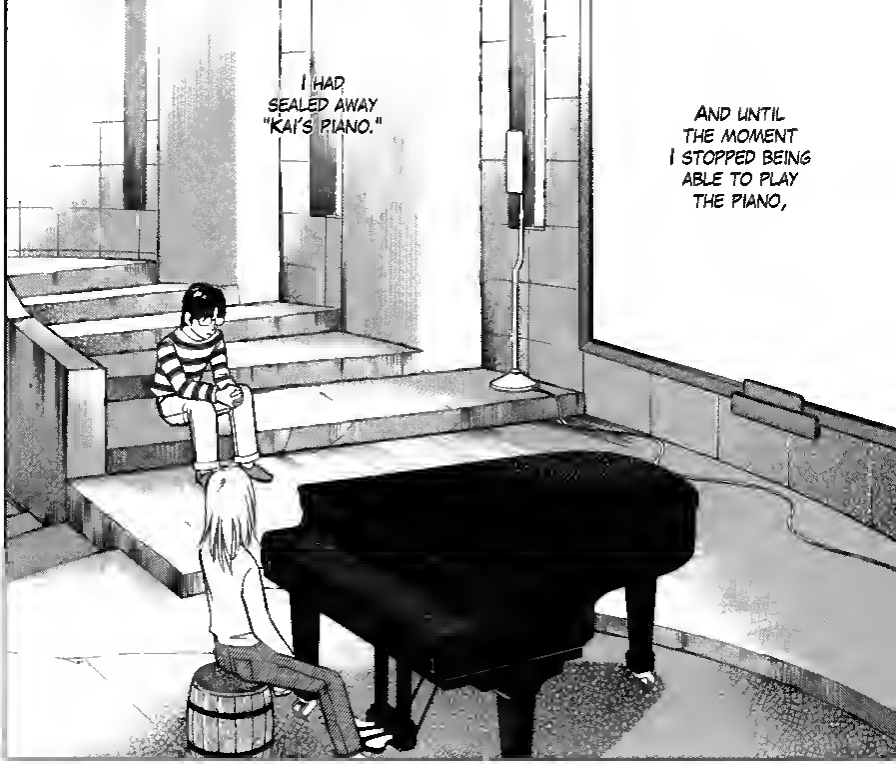

OH COME ON! AFTER WATCHING A VIDEO LIKE THAT?!
I'M VERY SERIOUS!

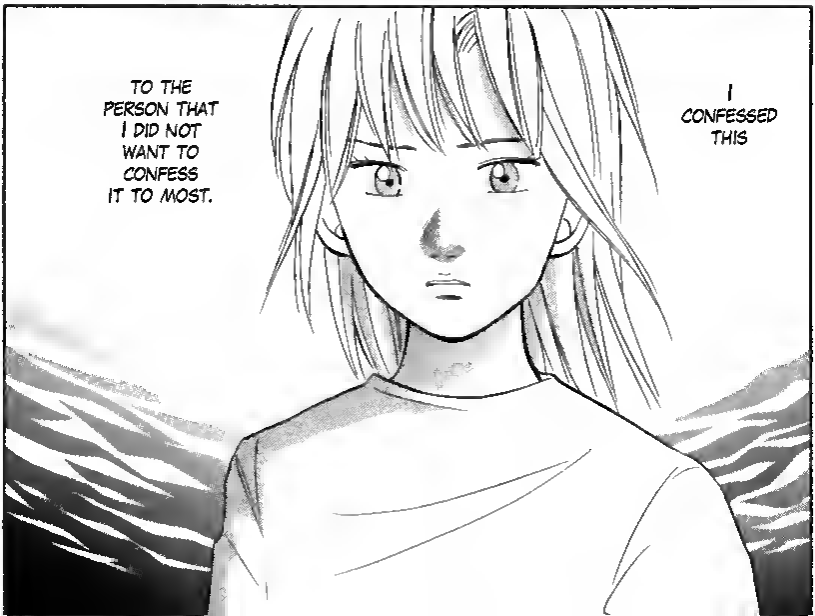

I WANT TO HEAR THE BEST PIANO THAT YOU CAN PLAY RIGHT NOW!
NOT THE WAY YOU PLAY FOR WORK.

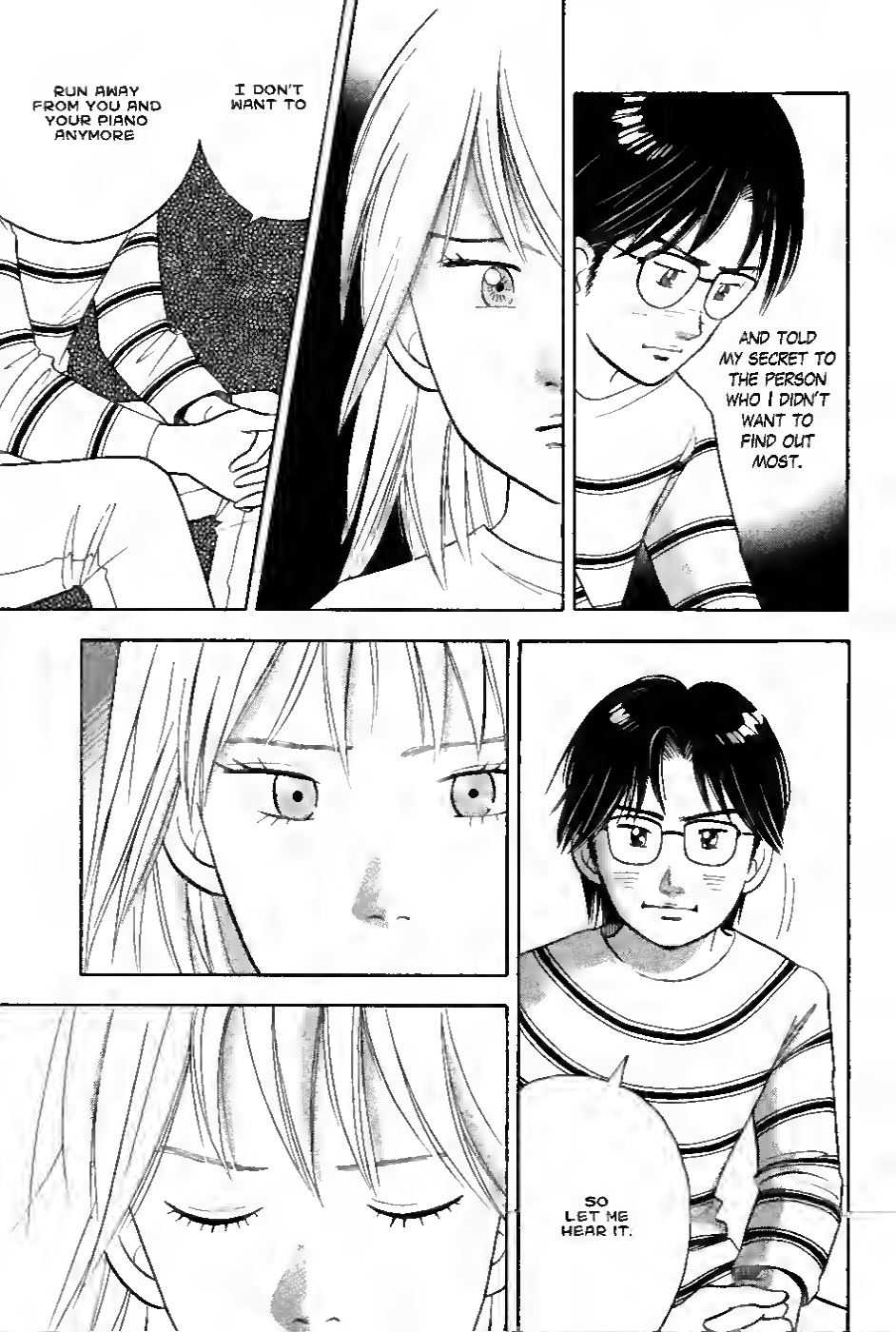

...

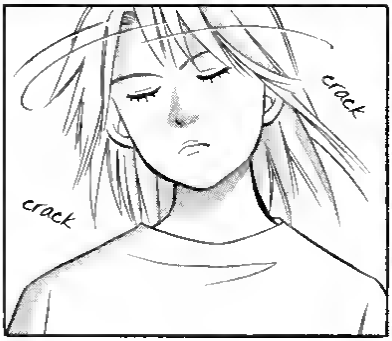
AHH, SO YOU HEARD.
RIGHT NOW, AOINO'S TEACHING ME PIANISSIMO. IT'S THAT ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!
BUT IF I WOKE YOU UP, THEN I'M NOT QUITE THERE, YET.
IT WASN'T USING THE SOFT PEDAL. THAT WAS HALF-TOUCH PIANO.
THIS MORNING YOU WERE PRACTICING PIANISSIMO.
"IF I COULD PLAY A PROPER PIANISSIMO, I WOULD BE QUALIFIED TO BE A SOLOIST FOR THE BERLINER PHILHARMONIC" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
"IF YOU COULD PLAY PIANISSIMO "
MY TEACHER LIKES TO SAY,

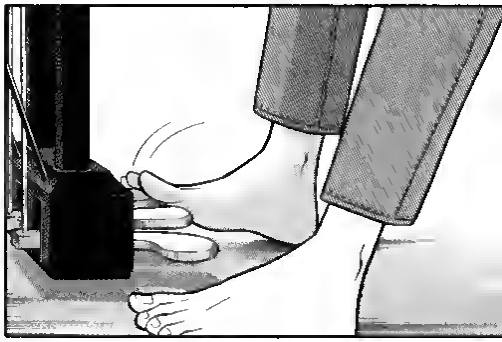
AHAHA!
WHAT THE HECK MAN! DON'T TALK LIKE THAT! WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON, AMAMIYA?!
I CAME BACK TO JAPAN IN ORDER TO COME TO TERMS
WITH YOUR CURRENT LEVEL OF PIANO
KAI, I AM SERIOUS.
I'D LIKE YOU TO LISTEN AND NOT THINK IT'S A JOKE.
...
EVER SINCE
THAT PIANO CONCOURS FIVE YEARS AGO...
STUDYING ABROAD HAS BEEN AN EXCUSE FOR ME.
IN TRUTH, IT WAS TO ESCAPE FROM "KAI'S PIANO."

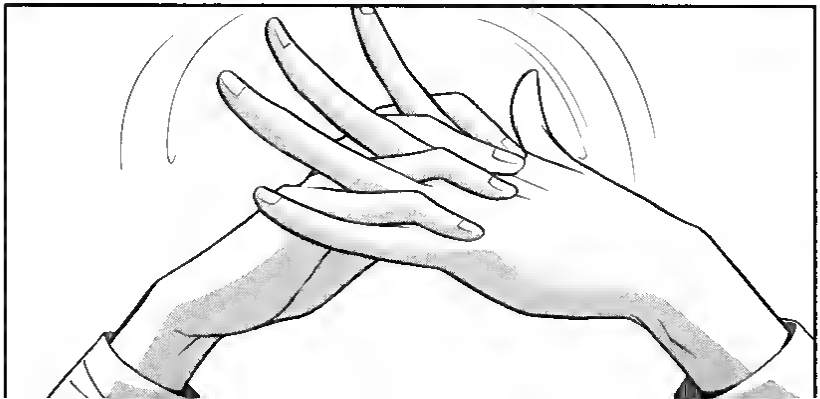

I HAD SEALED AWAY "KAI'S PIANO."
AND UNTIL THE MOMENT I STOPPED BEING ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO,


TO THE PERSON THAT I DID NOT WANT TO CONFESS IT TO MOST.
I CONFESSED THIS


RUN AWAY FROM YOU AND YOUR PIANO ANYMORE
I DON'T WANT TO
AND TOLD MY SECRET TO THE PERSON WHO I DIDN'T WANT TO FIND OUT MOST.
SO LET ME HEAR IT.

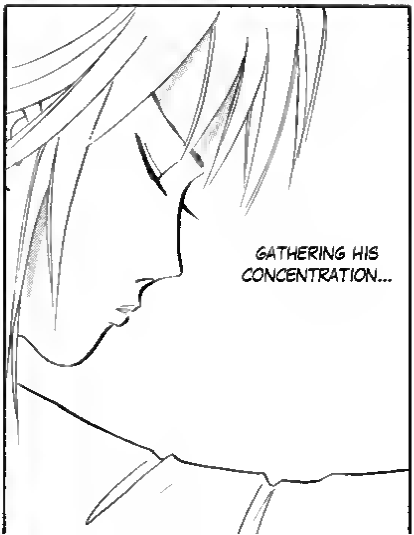

crack
crack





DAMN STRAIGHT
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO CHOOSE THE PIECE
RIGHT NOW I AM IN NO MOOD TO TAKE A REQUEST

KAI SAT THERE SILENTLY FOR MORE THAN A MINUTE,


GATHERING HIS CONCENTRATION...

AND THEN
QUIETLY STARTED TO PLAY.
AHH... THIS...
THE SOUND OF BELLS...
THIS IS

LISZT'S
"LA CAMPANELLA"

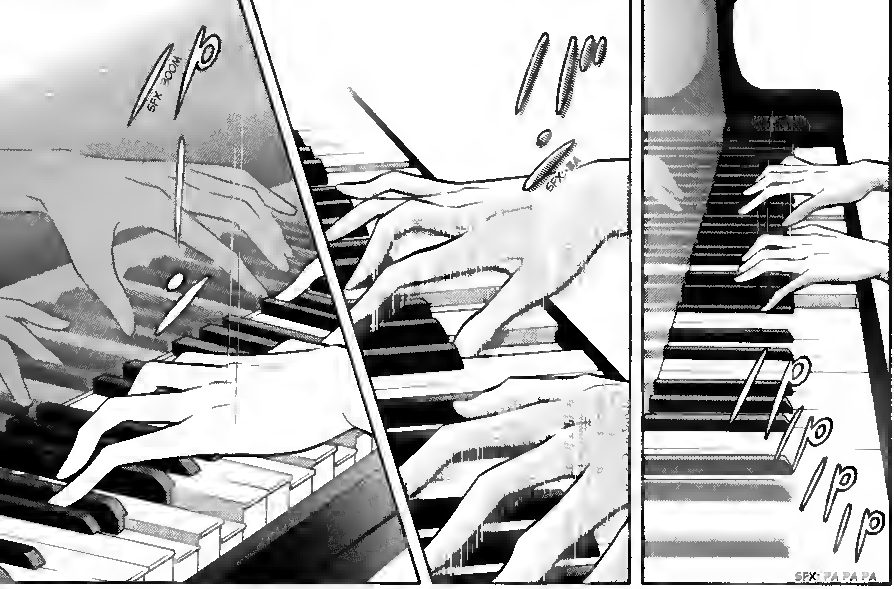
I'VE NEVER HEARD
SO MUCH GENTLE-NESS.
BEARING SO MUCH SORROW...
WHAT SOUND!

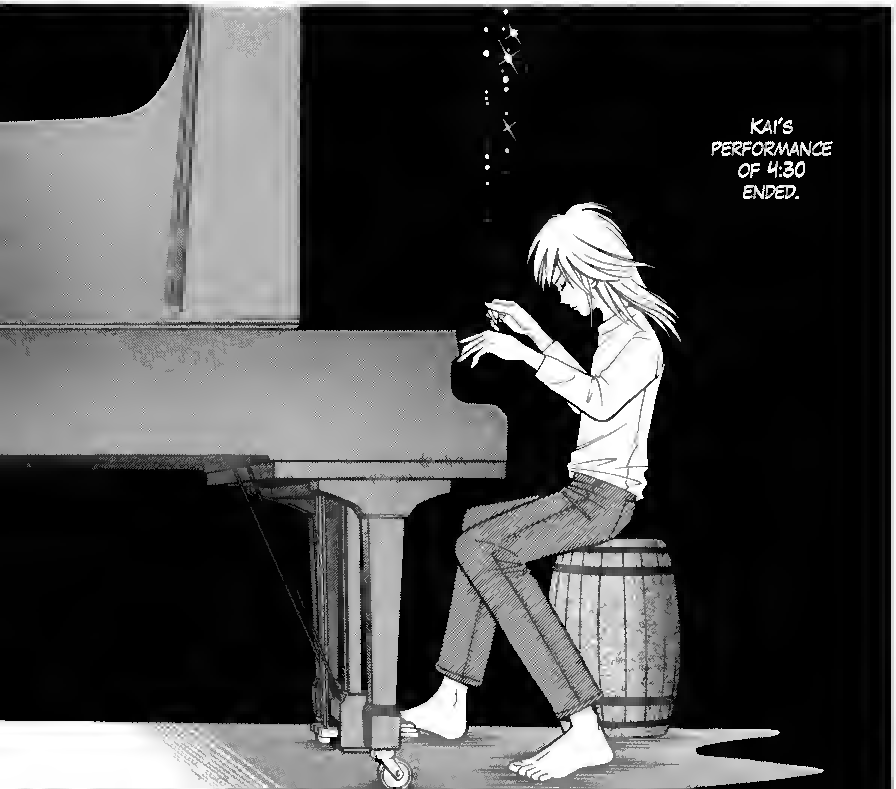
CAMPANELLA BEING PLAYED LIKE THIS.
SYUHEI...
THE BEST MUSICIANS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION...
MUST HAVE BOTH THE BEST TECHNICAL SKILLS, AND THE BEST MUSICAL SENSE.
AND MUSICAL SENSE.
THAT COMES FROM THE INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES OF THE MUSICIAN HIMSELF.

SYUHEI...
HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING EVERY SINGLE DAY BASED ON YOUR OWN DESIRES, AND YOUR OWN VOLITION?
SYUHEI, YOU MUSTN'T RUN AWAY FROM YOUR OWN LIFE.
KAI, YOUR PIANO...

HAS ALREADY REACHED SUCH A LEVEL!?
IS

4分30秒の解 END


SFX: ZOOM
SFX: PA
SFX: PA PA PA

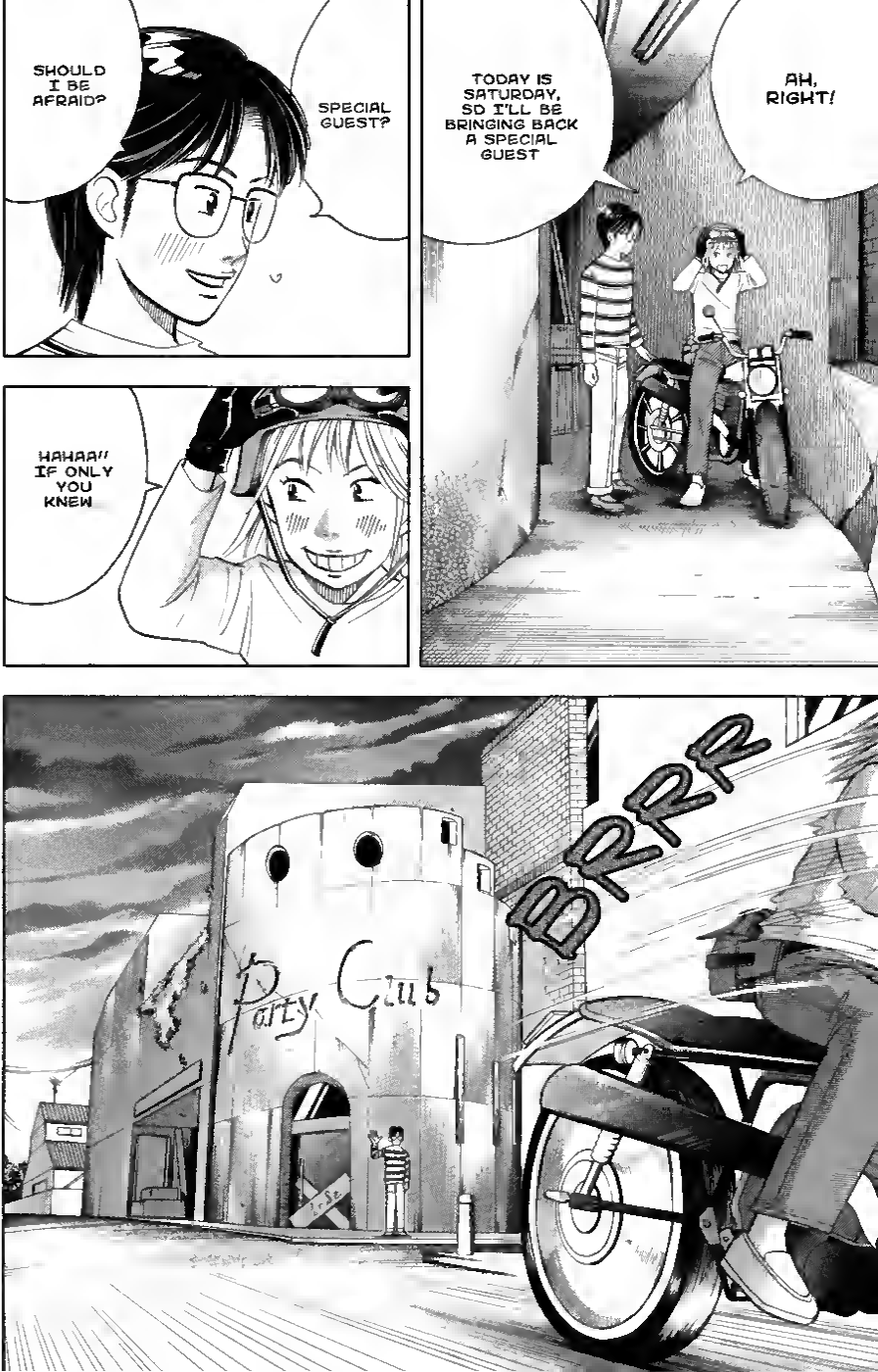

KAI'S PERFORMANCE OF 4:30 ENDED.

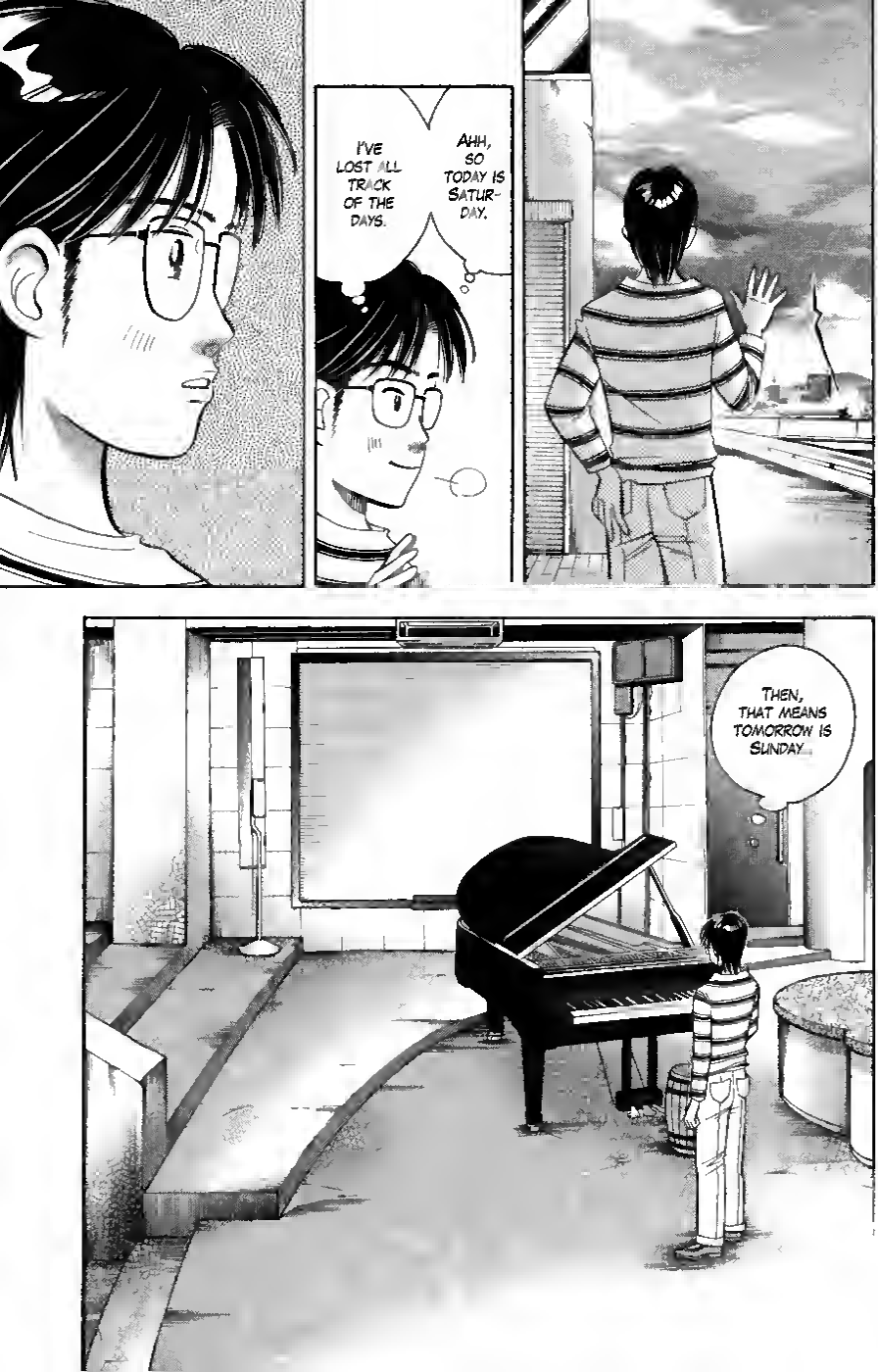
Chapter 71 In His Direction

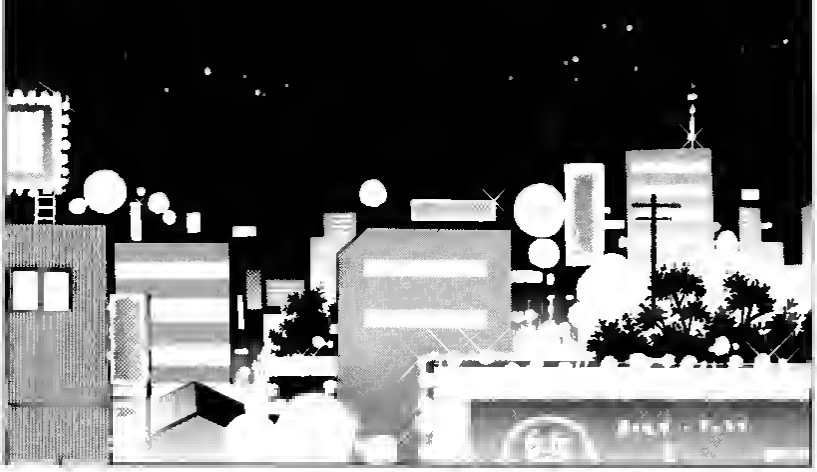
I WILL SURELY SURPASS THIS PIANO.
I DEFINITELY
WILL SURPASS IT.
THANK YOU, KAI.
YOU SURE ARE AWESOME
IT WAS EVEN BETTER THAN I IMAGINED

I'M THE ONE WHO'S FEELING DEFEATED
Sigh
FRANKLY I FELT A BIT DEFEATED LISTENING TO IT.
I WAS SO NERVOUS! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT MY HEART POUNDING SO FAST!
AHAHA, STOP KIDDING AROUND.
I'M NOT KIDDING AT ALL.
YOU KEPT ON INSISTING YOU WANTED "THE BEST PIANO", THAT I FELT SO MUCH PRESSURE IN TRYING TO GIVE YOU THAT.
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!
BUT THANKS TO THAT I GOT TO LISTEN TO AN AMAZING "CAMPANELLA!"
MY ARMPITS ARE ALL SWEATY NOW.

OH NO!! IT'S TIME FOR MY NEXT JOB
beep
beep
beep
BOOP
bzzz
bzzz
bzzz
bzzz
SORRY, AMAMIYA
I HAVE TO GO TO WORK FOR A BIT
BUT I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN
YOU'RE SO BUSY KAI...


SHOULD I BE AFRAID?
SPECIAL GUEST?
TODAY IS SATURDAY, SO I'LL BE BRINGING BACK A SPECIAL GUEST
AH, RIGHT!
HAHAA!! IF ONLY YOU KNEW
BRRR
Party Club


I'VE LOST ALL TRACK OF THE DAYS.
AHH, SO TODAY IS SATURDAY.
THEN, THAT MEANS TOMORROW IS SUNDAY...

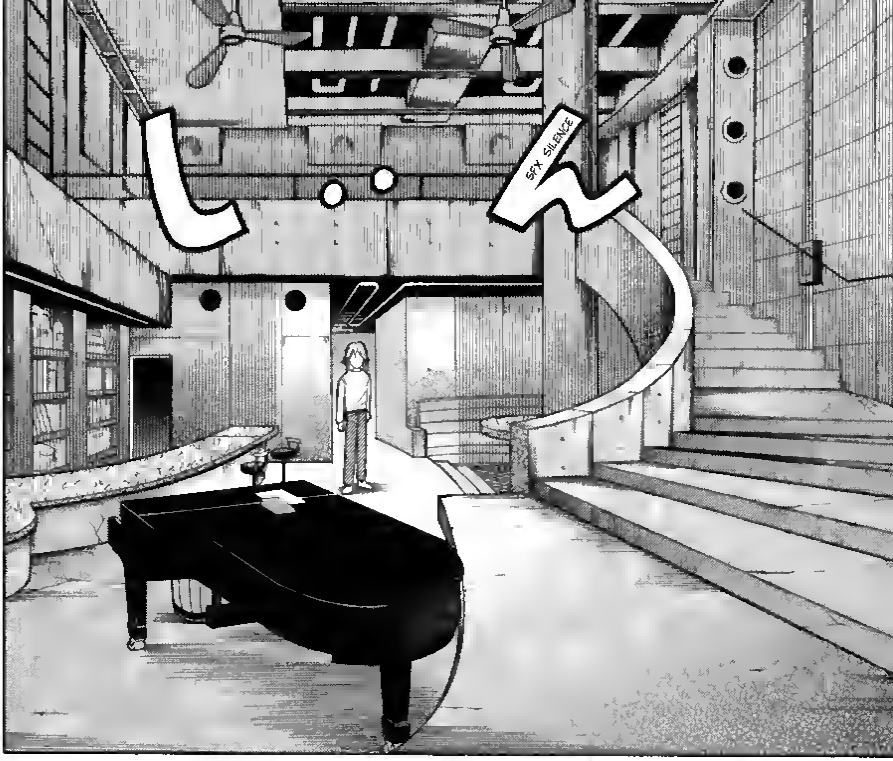


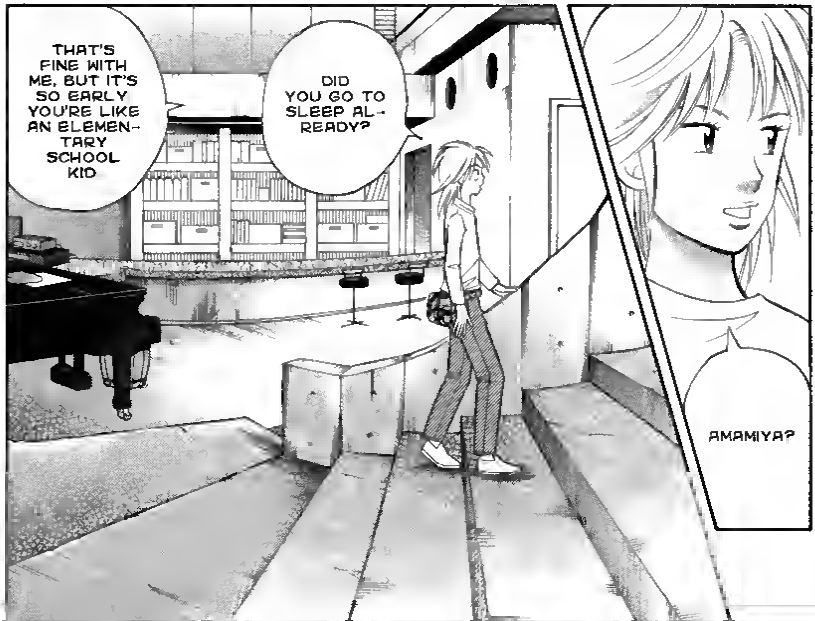
OK!!
SFX: WOOSH

Party
IT'S MUCH LATER THAN I EXPECTED ...

HEY MAN, YOU SHOULD TURN ON THE LIGHTS WHEN IT GETS DARK
SORRY, THEY WOULDN'T LET ME GO UNTIL NOW

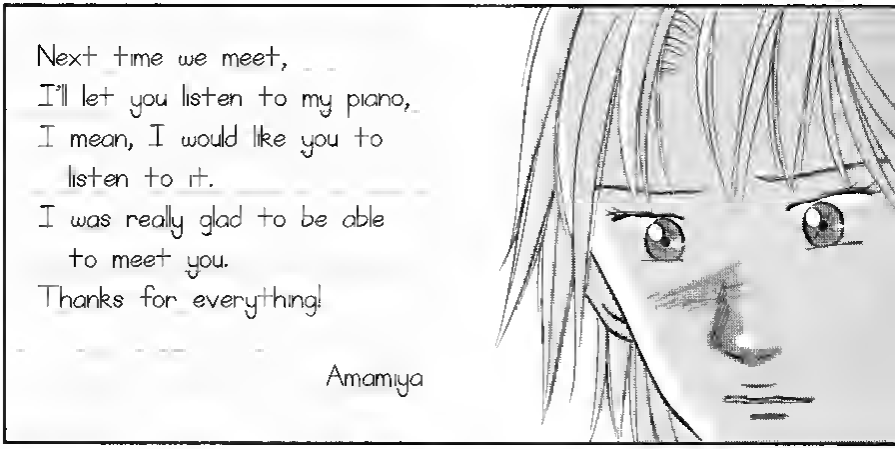
I'M BACK AMAMIYA
ガチャ

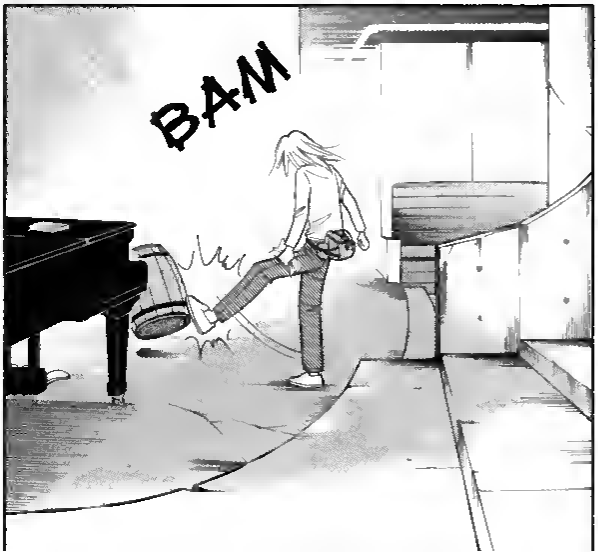

SFX: SILENCE

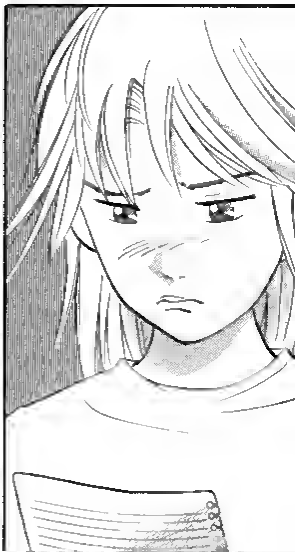

AMAMIYA?
DID YOU GO TO SLEEP ALREADY?
THAT'S FINE WITH ME, BUT IT'S SO EARLY YOU'RE LIKE AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID

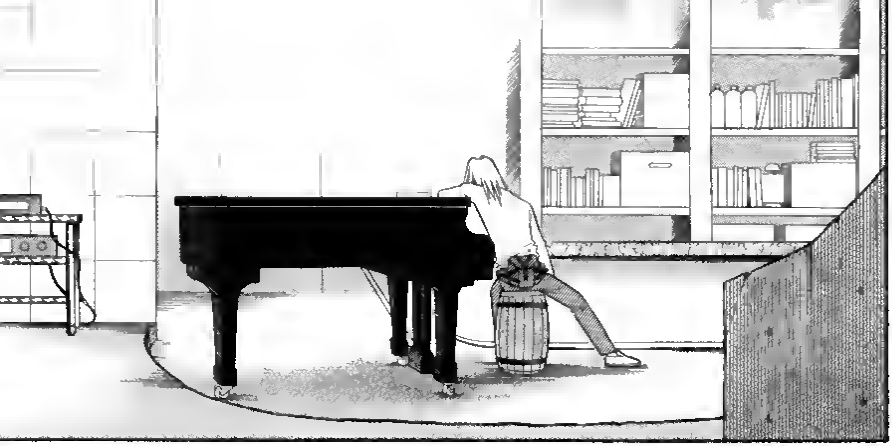
RUSTLE
NO WAY, AMAMIYA MAN,
Kai,
Thanks for all that you have done. I just remembered an urgent engagement and went home. I hope you will forgive me for coming and going so suddenly.
AMAMIYA

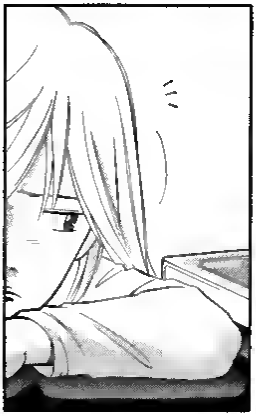
This video is a gift
for you.


Next time we meet,
I'll let you listen to my piano,
I mean, I would like you to
listen to it.
I was really glad to be able
to meet you.
Thanks for everything!
Amamiya


BAM







bump

WHAT THE HELL !!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU COULD STAY FOR A WHILE?
I HEARD YOU SAY SO, MYSELF

SANTO

AND LOSE IT...
TO HAVE THIS KIND OF SKILL

HOW COULD YOU LIVE WITH THAT!
clack

AMAZING!!
A-

I RESPECT YOU
IT'S AMAZING AJINO!!

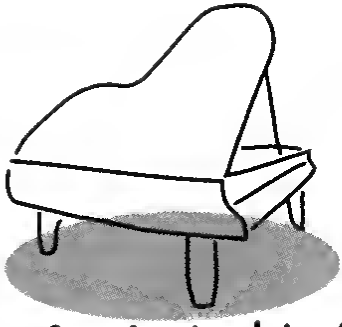
!
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

IT'S FINE. CONTINUE PLAYING.

HEY DON'T HOLD BACK ON ME
IT'S QUITE A GOOD ARRANGE-MENT
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE MEETING MY OLD SELF
WHEN YOU LEFT A MESSAGE ON MY CELL PHONE SAYING THAT A SPECIAL GUEST WAS GOING TO BE HERE TODAY
SURPASS THIS PERFORMANCE
KAI,

SURPASS EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD.
その向こうへ END

Chapter 72
Father's Piano



The Perfect World of KAI

I WAS LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO BUY A TICKET FROM SOMEONE WHO CANCEL-LED.
YEAH.
IT'S THE FIRST FLIGHT TOMORROW MORNING, THOUGH.
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO AUSTRIA, AFTER FATHER'S CONCERT?
SYUHEI.
YES THANK YOU, THAT WOULD BE GREAT
IS THIS ALL THE LUGGAGE YOU'D LIKE ME TO LOAD IN THE CAR?
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I NEED TO DO
SORRY, GRANDMA
YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY BACK IN SUCH A RUSH

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD. YOU'VE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED QUITE A LOT!
I'LL HAVE ACCOM-PLISHED MUCH MORE BY THEN!
I'LL COME TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON.
YOU TOO, GRANDMA. TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO ME.

ON MY LAST DAY IN JAPAN.
WENT TO LISTEN TO MY FATHER'S PIANO RECITAL
I...
FATHER...
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAST HEARD MY FATHER'S PIANO?

YOUICHIRO!
ザワ
WAAAAHH
ザワ
SFX: STEP STEP
控室
WHY IS THE AUDIENCE SO ROWDY!
I CAN BARELY STAND IT ANYMORE!
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE LET THESE CRYING CHILDREN IN AT ALL
THE TICKETS ARE TOO CHEAP! THAT'S WHY ALL THESE UNAPPRECIATIVE, AND RUDE PEOPLE
ARE KICKING AND SCREAMING OUT THERE
HAHA SPEAKING OF WHICH THE CELL PHONE HASN'T BEEN RINGING AT ALL TODAY RIGHT?
HOW CAN YOU BE SO NONCHALANT!
IT'S REALLY RUDE TO ALL THE FANS WHO CAME HERE, REALLY WANTING TO HEAR YOU PLAY!

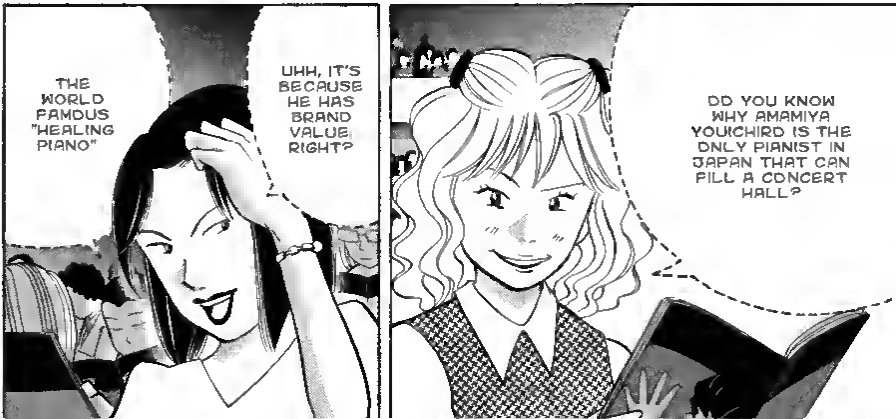
I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR EACH AND EVERY ADDITIONAL PERSON WHO COMES TO HEAR MY PERFOR-MANCE.
FU
IT JUST DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH YOU LET THE NOISE GET TO YOU.
NAMIE... THERE ARE ALWAYS GOOD DAYS, AND BAD DAYS.
BESIDES, THIS IS THE LAST PERFORMANCE TODAY PLUS THERE'S ONLY THE SECOND HALF LEFT.
...
PIANO

SORRY, I GOT ON THE WRONG TRAIN FOR A BIT
THANK GOODNESS! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT MAKE IT
SYUHEI!
SYU-
YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING ABROAD THESE FIVE YEARS, SO YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COME ONCE, RIGHT?
BUT HE'LL NO DOUBT BE HAPPY!
YEAH.
I HAVEN'T TOLD SIR YET SINCE HE SAID THAT HE CAN'T BE WORRYING ABOUT IT, SO HE DOESN'T KNOW
THEY'RE IN THE SCHEDULED INTERLUDE RIGHT NOW THE SECOND HALF WILL BE STARTING SOON
WHY I COULDN'T COME TO LISTEN TO FATHER'S PIANO.
I HAD NO REASON
PERHAPS ALL PEOPLE WHO WALK YOUR PATH HAVE TO MAKE SIMILAR KINDS OF SACRIFICES

AS USUAL IT'S FULL TO POINT THAT EVEN THE STANDING PLACES ARE GETTING PACKED
IT WAS JUST THAT I WAS WORRIED THAT I MIGHT SEE MY OWN FLAWS IN WATCHING HIM PLAY.
MY PIANO HAS NO STYLE. IT HAS NO FLAIR...
I DIDN'T WANT TO SENSE THAT UNSURPASSABLE WALL IN MY FATHER'S PIANO.
Y. Amamiya
WAAAAHH!
NO IF YOU CAN'T SIT STILL QUIETLY, YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY OUT HERE!

I DONT WANT TO!!!
LOOK! WAIT OUTSIDE HERE WITH DAD!
SO YOU HAVE TO LET THE BABY THAT'S IN MY BELLY NOW QUIETLY ENJOY THE MUSIC, TOO!
WHEN I HAD YOU IN MY BELLY, I CAME HERE SO YOU COULD LISTEN TO HIS PIANO!!

IT'S ESPECIALLY POPULAR WITH PREGNANT WOMEN, AND THOSE WITH A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ILLNESS.
THEY SAY FATHER'S PERFORMANCE IS A "HEALING" ONE.
YEAH.
SAME AS USUAL, HUH?


THE WORLD FAMOUS "HEALING PIANO"
UHH, IT'S BECAUSE HE HAS BRAND VALUE, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW WHY AMAMIYA YOUICHIRO IS THE ONLY PIANIST IN JAPAN THAT CAN FILL A CONCERT HALL?

SHHHT, I'LL TELL YOU WHEN IT'S OVER.
THEN TELL ME THE ANSWER!
THAT KIND OF ANSWER IS NO GOOD! WE'RE MUSIC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS...
SFX: CLAP CLAP CLAP

パチパチパチパチパチパチ
SFX: CLAP CL-P CL-P
FATHER.
パチパチパチパチパチパチ

SINCE I'VE HEARD YOUR PIANO, FATHER.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
NOR DEEPLY FILLS ME WITH EMOTIONS.
IT DOESN'T GET ME EXCITED,

BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE...

AND GIVES ME TRANQUILITY.
IT CALMS DOWN MY HEART,

IN STEAD OF LULLABIES.
GREW UP LISTENING TO THIS PIANO
... THAT'S RIGHT.

AND COULDN'T STOP CRYING...
WHEN I WAS SAD,
WHEN I GOT IRRITATED, AND OUT-RAGED...
IT WAS ALWAYS
AND SOLACE.
ALWAYS FATHER'S PIANO THAT GAVE MY HEART COMFORT,
piano

AND I LET IT GET TO MY HEAD.
ALL THE ADULTS ALWAYS PRAISED ME. SAYING, "IT SOUNDS JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER'S PIANO!"
WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR AS I SIT HERE?
WHAT AM I TRYING TO HEAR IN FATHER'S PERFORMANCE?
DOESN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO HIS.
MY PIANO...
MY FATHER'S PIANO IS IMMENSE.

IMMENSE ENOUGH TO ENVELOP ME,
AND GIVE ME HEALING.

SFX: CLAP CLAP CLAP
SFX: YAY
SFX: YAY

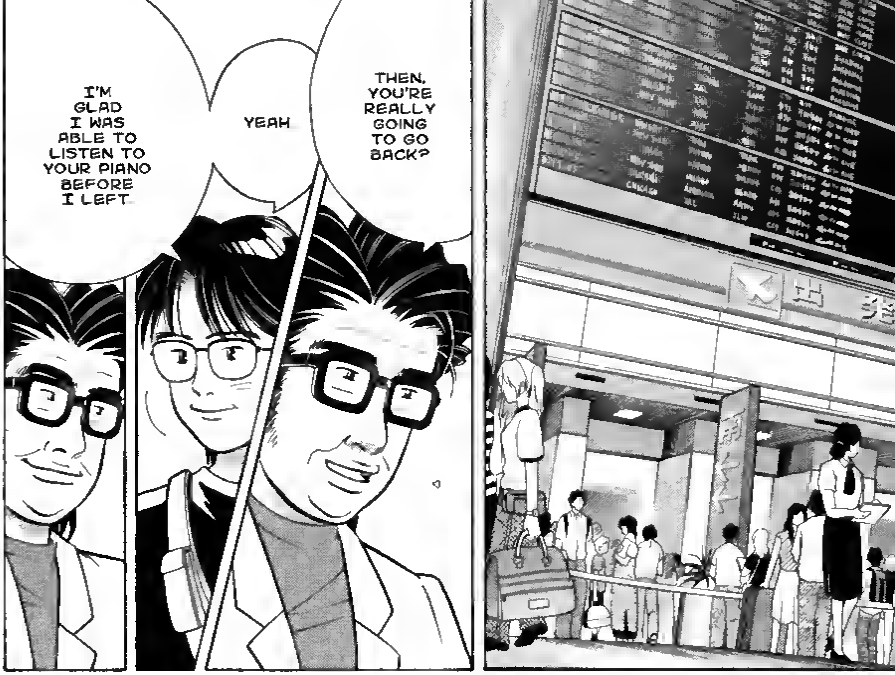
FATHER.
FATHER PLEASE, INDULGE THE AUDIENCE AND GIVE US AN ENCORE!!
I WANT TO STAY IN YOUR MUSIC JUST A BIT LONGER.
SFX. YAY
SFX. YAY
SFX. YAY
SFX. CLAP CLAP CLAP
SO DID YOU FIGURE OUT THE REASON WHY HE'S ABLE TO FILL CONCERT HALLS?
NO. TELL ME!
WHEN YOU LISTEN TO AMAMIYA YOUICHIRO'S PIANO, IT CALMS YOUR SOUL
PERHAPS A MAJOR FACTOR IS THE SCALES HE USES
PROFESSOR AJINO SAID THAT IF YOU EVER HAVE THE CHANCE, BE SURE TO LISTEN TO HIM LIVE

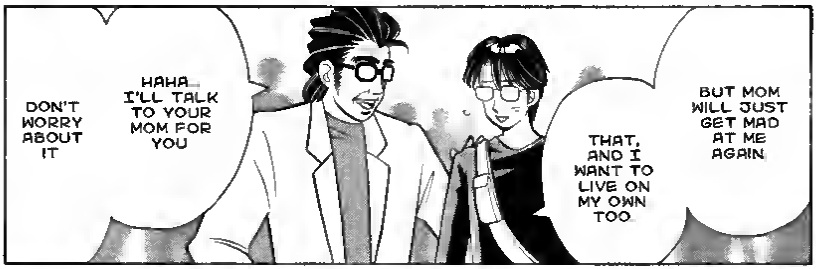
GOOD ONES AND BAD ONES?
BUT YOU KNOW... AJINO SAID THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PIANISTS IN THIS WORLD.
OF COURSE I REALLY RESPECT PROFESSOR AJINO AND I'M A GOOD STUDENT OF HIS
NOT PROFESSOR AJINO'S TEACHINGS AGAIN
THE KIND YOU WANT TO HEAR AGAIN,
AND THE KIND YOU DON'T
NOPE
FATHER!
AMAMIYA YOUICHIRO IS ONE OF THE BEST AMONG THE FORMER!

FATHER!!
EXCUSE ME I NEED TO PASS
FATHER!
IMMENSE, AND DEPENDABLE.
FATHER'S PIANO IS EXACTLY THAT.
BEEN LURED AWAY BY FLASHIER, AND MORE SUPERFICIAL THINGS.
I'VE ALWAYS
EVER PROTECTING ME INSIDE ITS SHELL.

THIS WAY I'VE MISSED THE GREATNESS THAT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
F-
FATHER.
SYU—

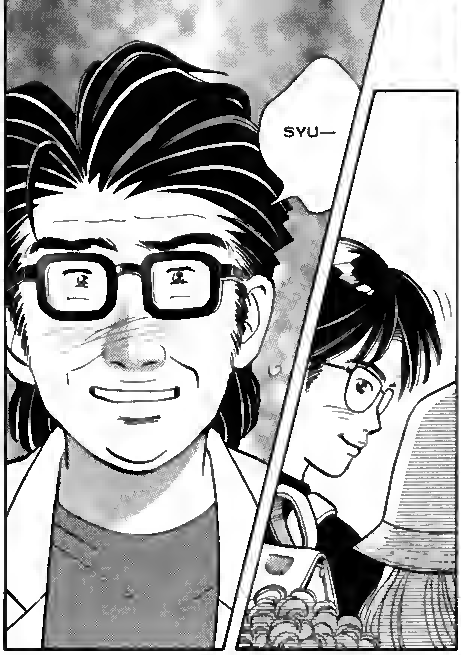
SYUHEI!


I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO LISTEN TO YOUR PIANO BEFORE I LEFT
YEAH
THEN, YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO GO BACK?


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
HAHA... I'LL TALK TO YOUR MOM FOR YOU
THAT, AND I WANT TO LIVE ON MY OWN TOO
BUT MOM WILL JUST GET MAD AT ME AGAIN

IF IT'S TOO PAINFUL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONTINUE DOING THIS.
YEAH?
SYUHEI,

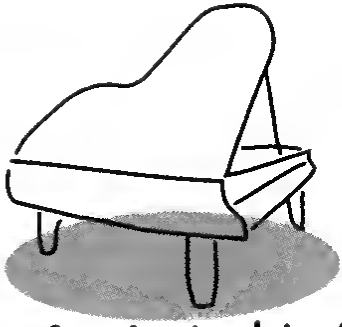
THERE ARE PLENTY OF EASIER, AND MORE EXCITING THINGS YOU CAN DO
YOU ARE FREE TO WALK ANY PATH YOU LIKE
IT'S NOT PAINFUL
FATHER
I'M GLAD THAT MY HANDS COULDN'T MOVE. THAT I COULDN'T PLAY THE PIANO FOR TWO DAYS
THOUGH IT WILL BE TOUGH AND DIFFICULT
AND I WILL PLAY THE PIANO.
DAD! I'M CHOOSING MY OWN PATH TO WALK.
WHAT I WANT TO DO...
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I UNDERSTAND


SYU—

SYUHEI, GOOD LUCK!!!

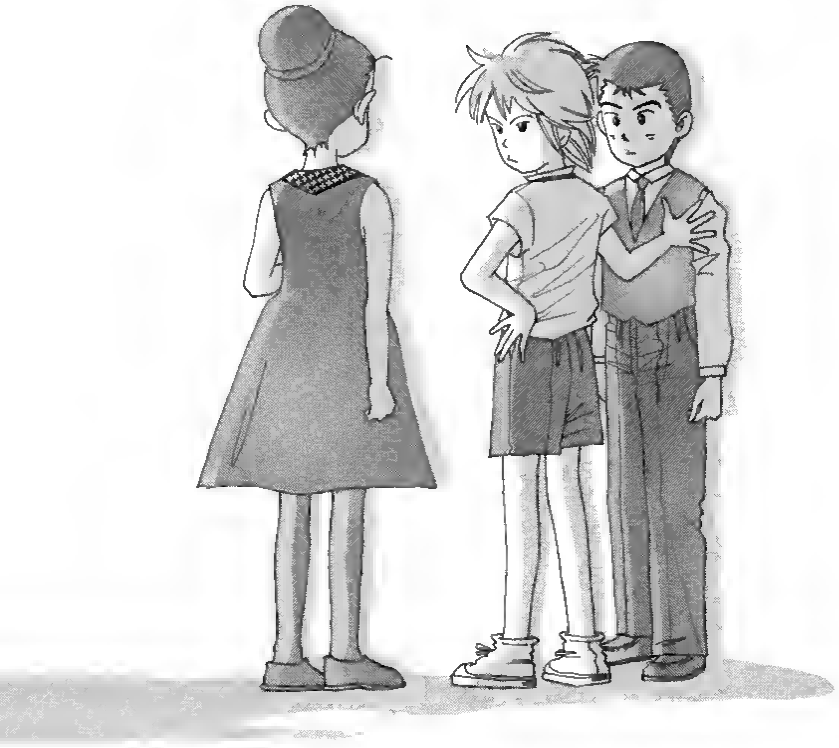
THAT'S WHY
出発
Departures (South)

I WON'T
GOOD LUCK !!!!
LOSE MY WAY AGAIN.
父のピアノ END



The Perfect World of KAI

Side Special:
Kai the Piano Tuner

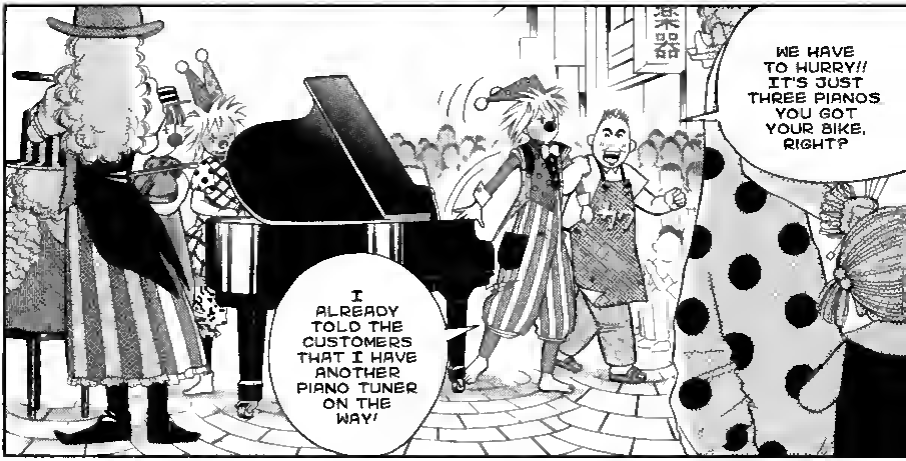


I'LL GO CHECK IMMEDIATE-LY!
I'M REALLY SORRY.
楽器
WHAT—!?
HE'S STILL NOT THERE YET!?
ピアノ・オルガン
修理・調律
BOOP

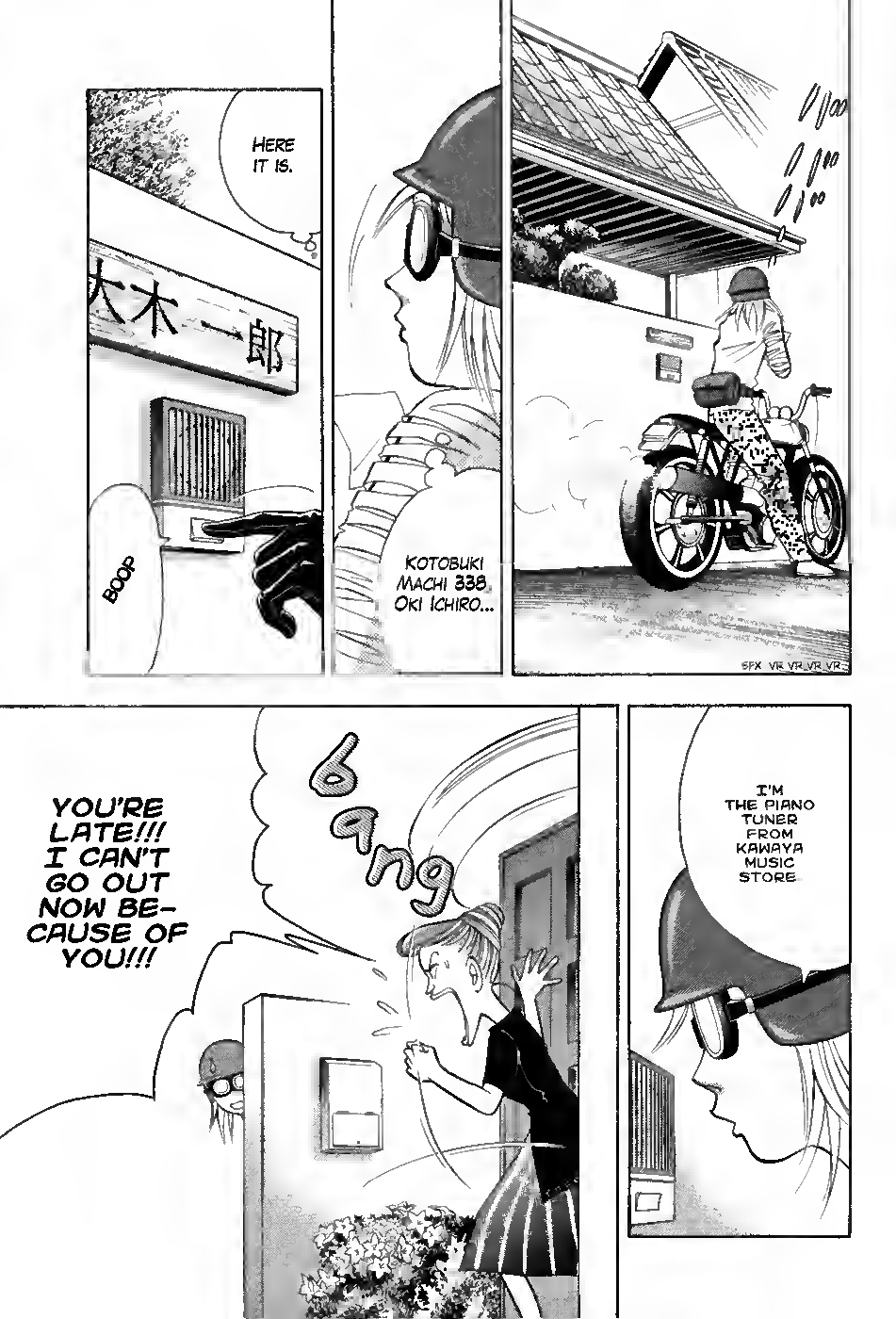
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU STUCK IN TRAFFIC?
HELLOOO !!!
I JUST GOT A CALL FROM MRS. OKI

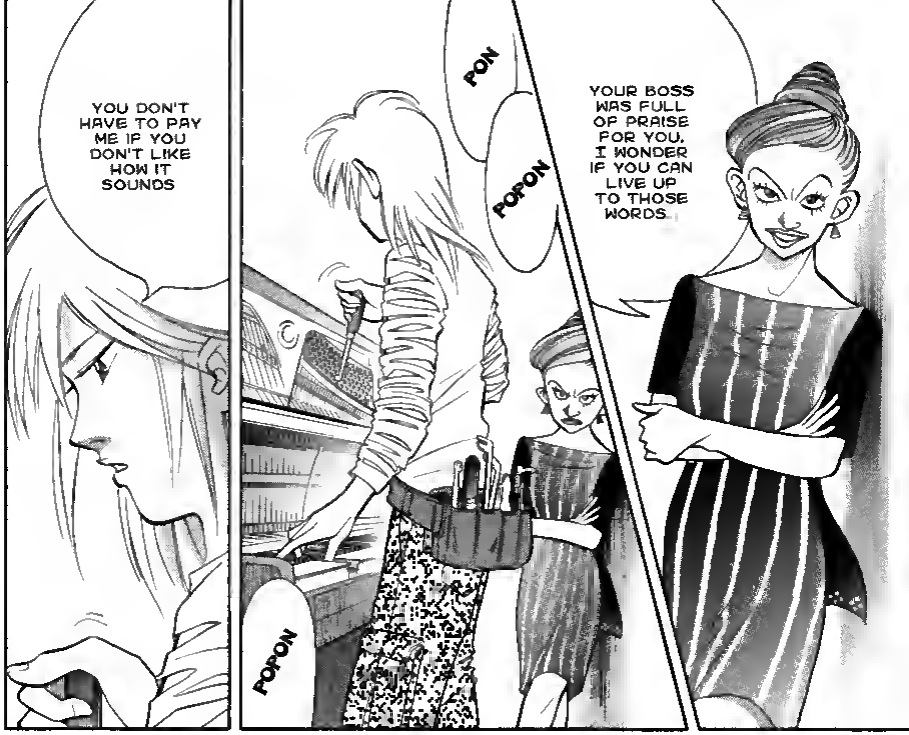
YOU GOT ARREST-ED?!
WHAT!?
clap clap clap clap
I WAS JUST SPEEDING A BIT, BUT THE POLICE, THEY-
clap clap clap clap
KAI!! I NEED YOU!! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ME!
YOU'D BE A REAL LIFESAVER, PLEASE BY MY PIANO TUNER FOR THE DAY!
YAY YAY YAY
EX-CUSE ME.
EX-CUSE ME.
WHAT THE HELL! THIS FATASS IS TRYING TO GET IN FRONT!

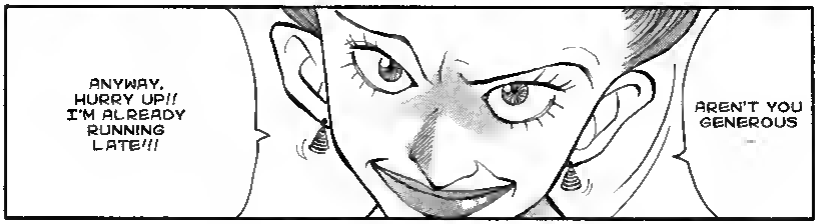
BESIDES, YOU'RE ALREADY SO SKILLED THAT WE HAVE YOU TUNE ALL OF THE PIANOS IN THE STORE
IT'S FOR ONE OF OUR BEST CUSTOMERS. OUR GOOD REPUTATION IS AT STAKE.


I ALREADY TOLD THE CUSTOMERS THAT I HAVE ANOTHER PIANO TUNER ON THE WAY!
WE HAVE TO HURRY!! IT'S JUST THREE PIANOS. YOU GOT YOUR BIKE, RIGHT?

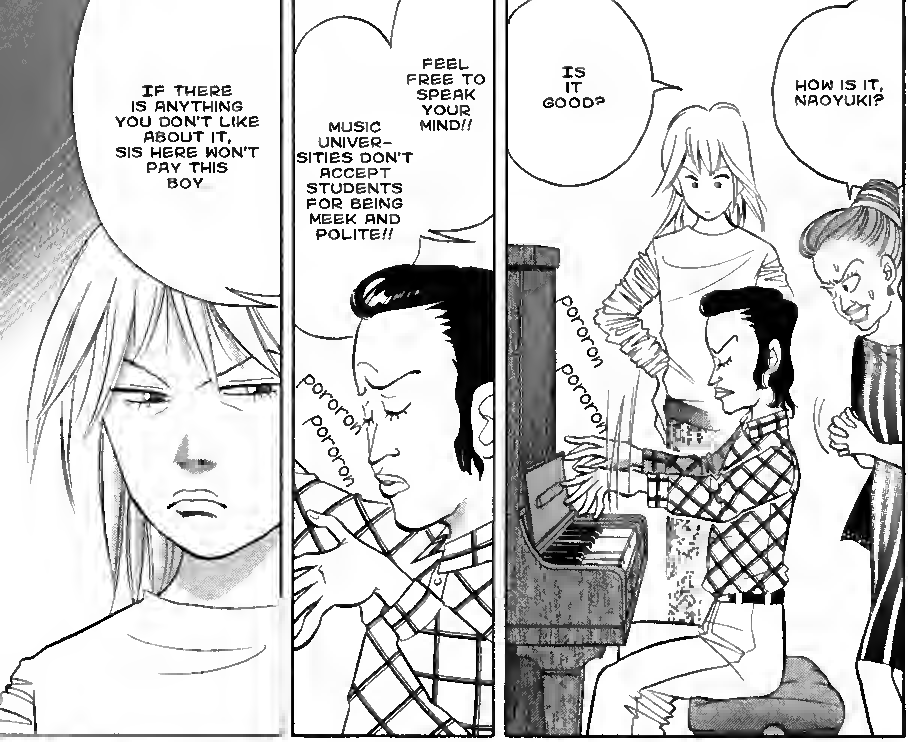
GULP
NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT YO! YOU'RE ON PIANO!
WE'VE BEEN ROBBED OF OUR PIANIST

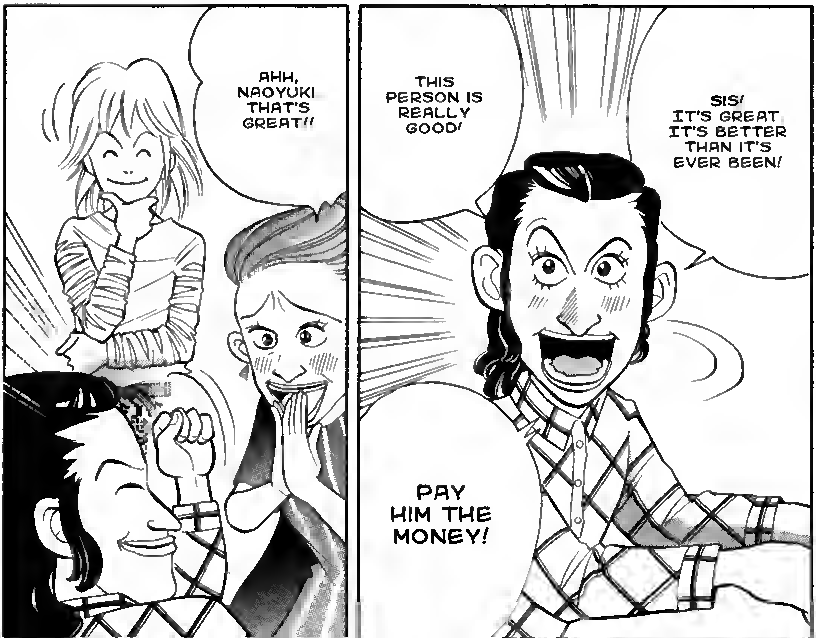

HERE IT IS.
大木一郎
BOOP
KOTOBUKI MACHI 338 OKI ICHIRO...
SFX VR VR VR VR
I'M THE PIANO TUNER FROM KAWAYA MUSIC STORE
bang
YOU'RE LATE!!! I CAN'T GO OUT NOW BE-CAUSE OF YOU!!!

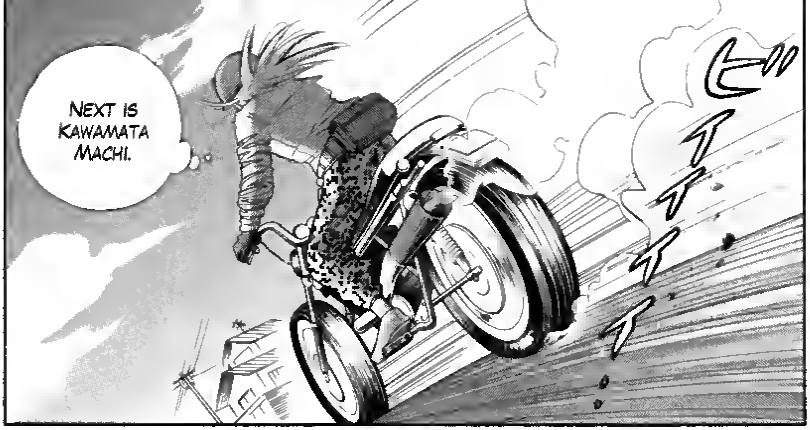

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ME IF YOU DON'T LIKE HOW IT SOUNDS
PON
POPON
YOUR BOSS WAS FULL OF PRAISE FOR YOU. I WONDER IF YOU CAN LIVE UP TO THOSE WORDS.
POPON

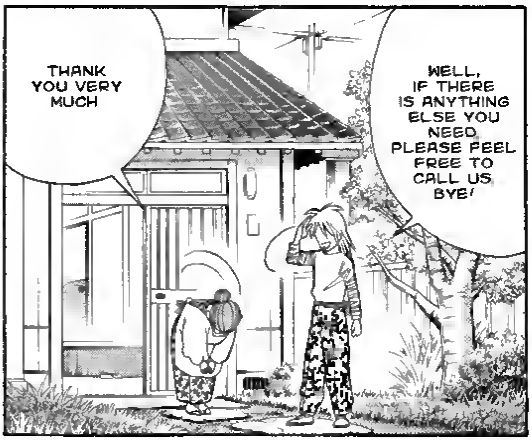

ANYWAY, HURRY UP!! I'M ALREADY RUNNING LATE!!!
AREN'T YOU GENEROUS

pororon
pororon

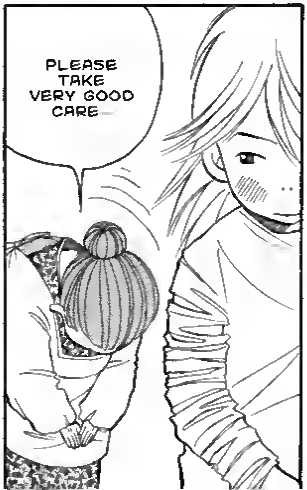

IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT IT, SIS HERE WON'T PAY THIS BOY
FEEL FREE TO SPEAK YOUR MIND!!
MUSIC UNIVER-SITIES DON'T ACCEPT STUDENTS FOR BEING MEEK AND POLITE!!
pororon
pororon
IS IT GOOD?
HOW IS IT, NAOYUKI?
pororon
pororon

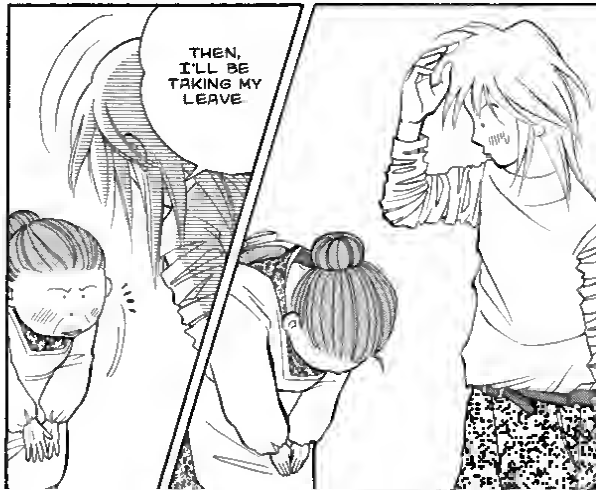

AHH, NAOYUKI THAT'S GREAT!!
THIS PERSON IS REALLY GOOD!
SIS! IT'S GREAT IT'S BETTER THAN IT'S EVER BEEN!
PAY HIM THE MONEY!


NEXT IS KAWAMATA MACHI.
ヒィィィィィ

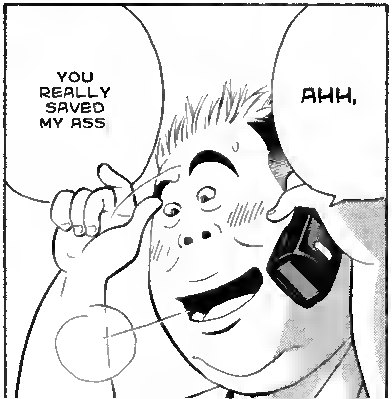

THANK YOU VERY MUCH
WELL, IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL US. BYE!

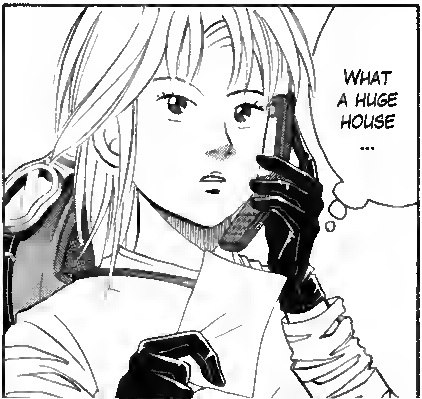
clack
clack
clack


PLEASE TAKE VERY GOOD CARE

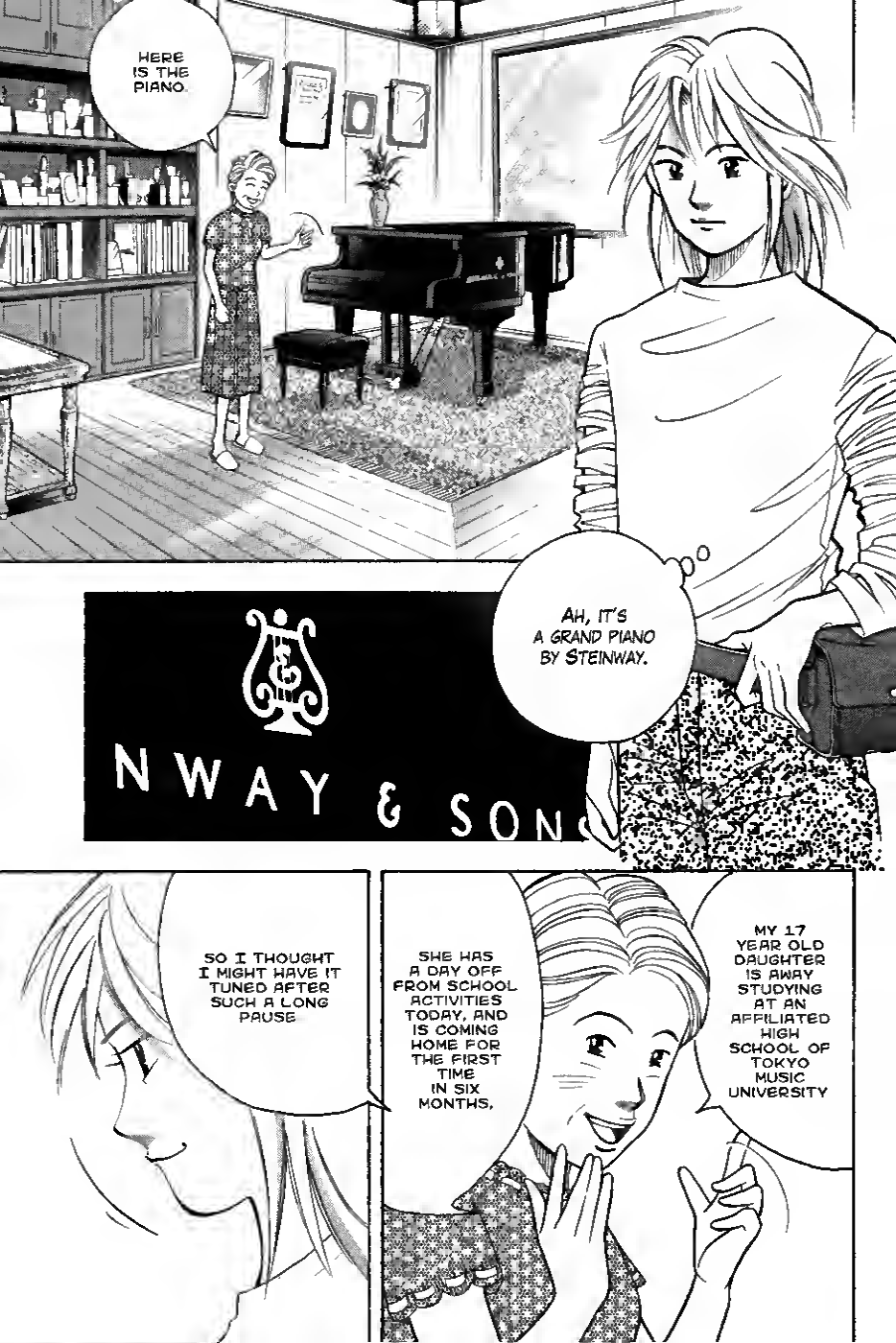

THEN, I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE

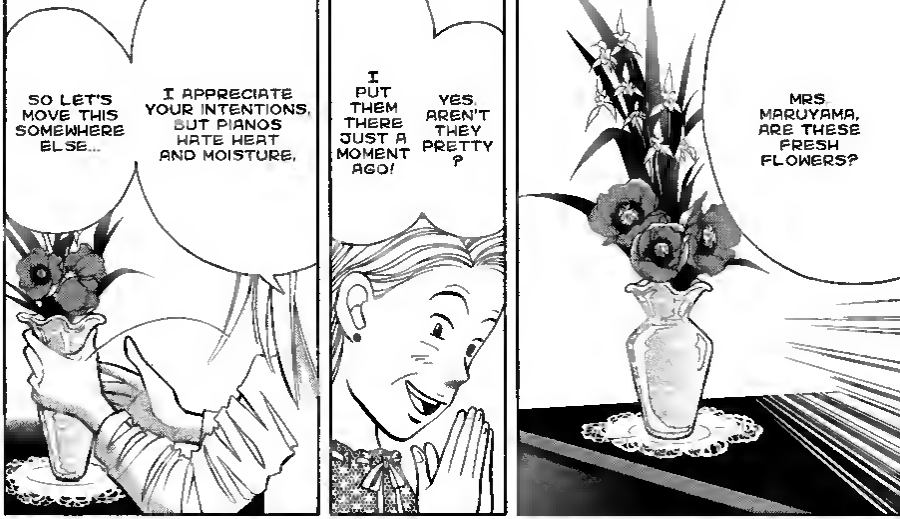
YES, I FINISHED THE FIRST TWO WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS
RIGHT NOW I'M AT THE THIRD AND FINAL CLIENT, THE MARUYAMA RESIDENCE

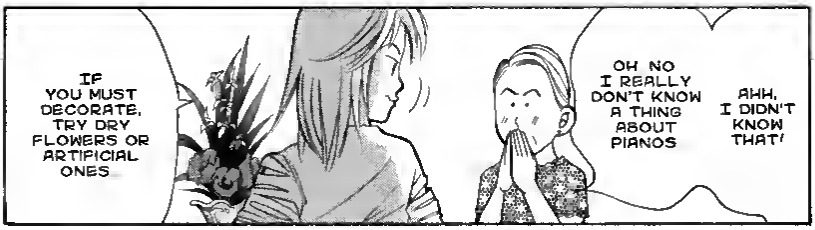

YOU REALLY SAVED MY ASS
AHH,


WHAT A HUGE HOUSE ...

IT'S A HUGE, HUGE DEAL FOR US IN TODAY'S ECONOMY.
THERE'S 2D UP-RIGHTS AND 14 GRANDS, 34 IN TOTAL
IT'S AT THE DOREMI MUSIC HALL!
I JUST GOT CALLED IN A HUGE JOB!!!
WHILE YOU'RE OUT THERE, COULD YOU GO TO ONE MORE PLACE FOR ME?
Pins
Pons
♪ ♪
MY, YOU'RE REALLY QUITE YOUNG
AHH, PLEASE, COME IN! SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING OUT THERE
ARUYAMA
GOOD DAY TO YOU, MADAM
I'M THE PIANO TUNER FROM KAWAYA MUSIC STORE


HERE IS THE PIANO.
AH, IT'S A GRAND PIANO BY STEINWAY.
NWAY & SON
SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE IT TUNED AFTER SUCH A LONG PAUSE
SHE HAS A DAY OFF FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TODAY, AND IS COMING HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIX MONTHS.
MY 17 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER IS AWAY STUDYING AT AN AFFILIATED HIGH SCHOOL OF TOKYO MUSIC UNIVERSITY

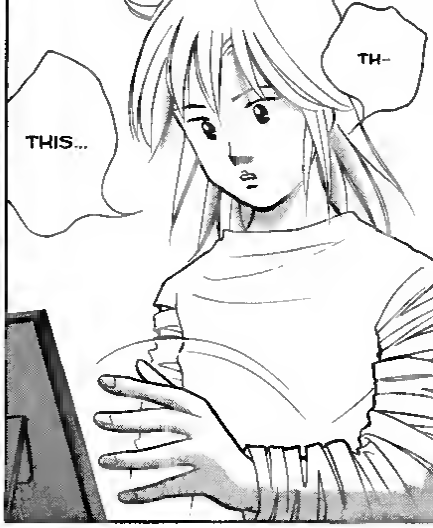

MRS MARUYAMA, ARE THESE FRESH FLOWERS?
YES. AREN'T THEY PRETTY ?
I PUT THEM THERE JUST A MOMENT AGO!
I APPRECIATE YOUR INTENTIONS, BUT PIANOS HATE HEAT AND MOISTURE.
SO LET'S MOVE THIS SOMEWHERE ELSE...

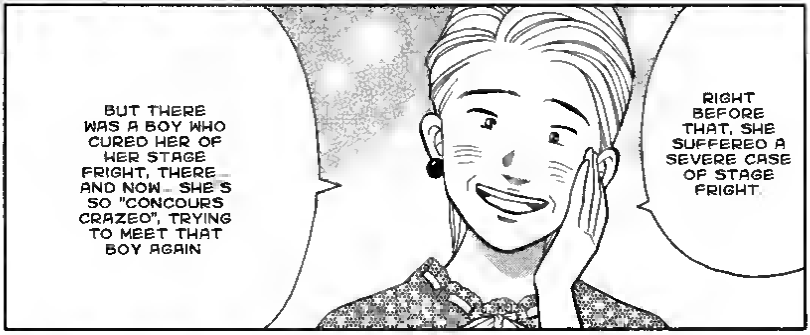

AHH, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!
OH NO I REALLY DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT PIANOS
IF YOU MUST DECORATE, TRY DRY FLOWERS OR ARTIFICIAL ONES

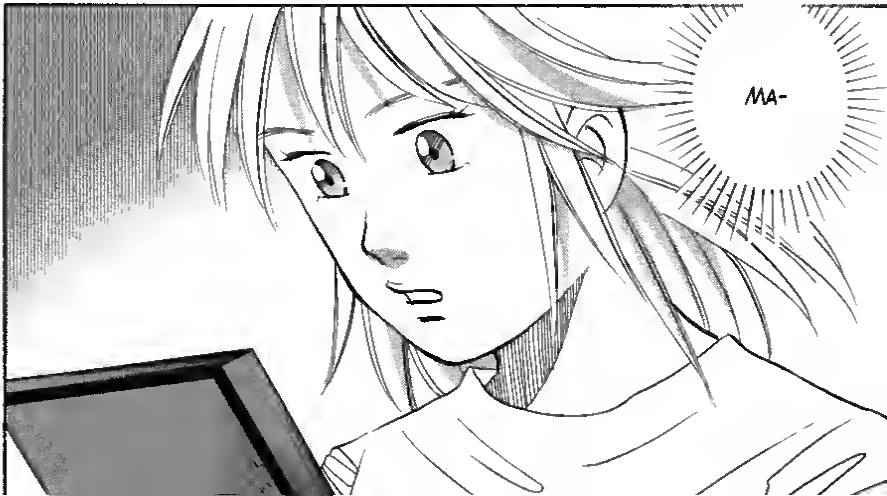
I MESSED AROUND EACH AND EVERY DAY, TRYING TO TUNE THE RAIN-SOAKED PIANO OF THE FOREST.
I ACQUIRED MUCH OF MY SKILLS IN PIANO TUNING RIGHT THERE.
WHILE IT WAS THE MOST WONDERFUL PLACE FOR ME, FOR THE PIANO IT WAS THE WORST, MOST DAMAGING ENVIRONMENT TO BE IN.

WHAT A LARGE AMOUNT OF TROPHIES
OH!
REMEMBER TO KEEP WATER AWAY FROM THE PIANO.
BUT IN TRUTH, SHE'S NOT CRAZY ABOUT IT AT ALL! IT'S A SHAME
MY DAUGHTER PARTICIPATED IN CONCOURS AFTER CONCOURS TO THE POINT SHE COULD BE CALLED "CONCOURS CRAZED."
YEAH.
BUT SHE OFTEN GETS SECOND, THIRD, OR SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS.
SHE NEVER GETS FIRST PLACE

AHH, THAT
THAT'S A MEMENTO OF HER FIRST LOVE.

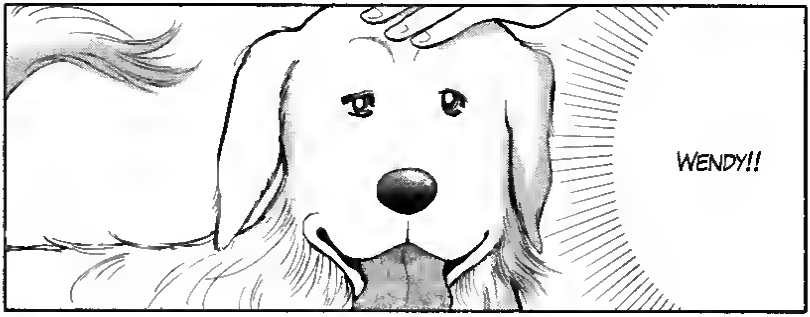

TH-
THIS...

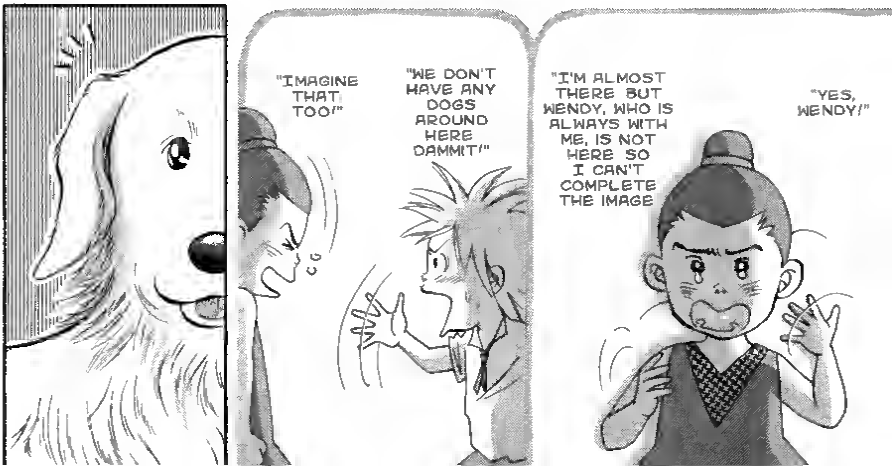

BUT THERE WAS A BOY WHO CURED HER OF HER STAGE FRIGHT, THERE— AND NOW— SHE'S SO "CONCOURS CRAZED", TRYING TO MEET THAT BOY AGAIN
RIGHT BEFORE THAT, SHE SUFFERED A SEVERE CASE OF STAGE FRIGHT.

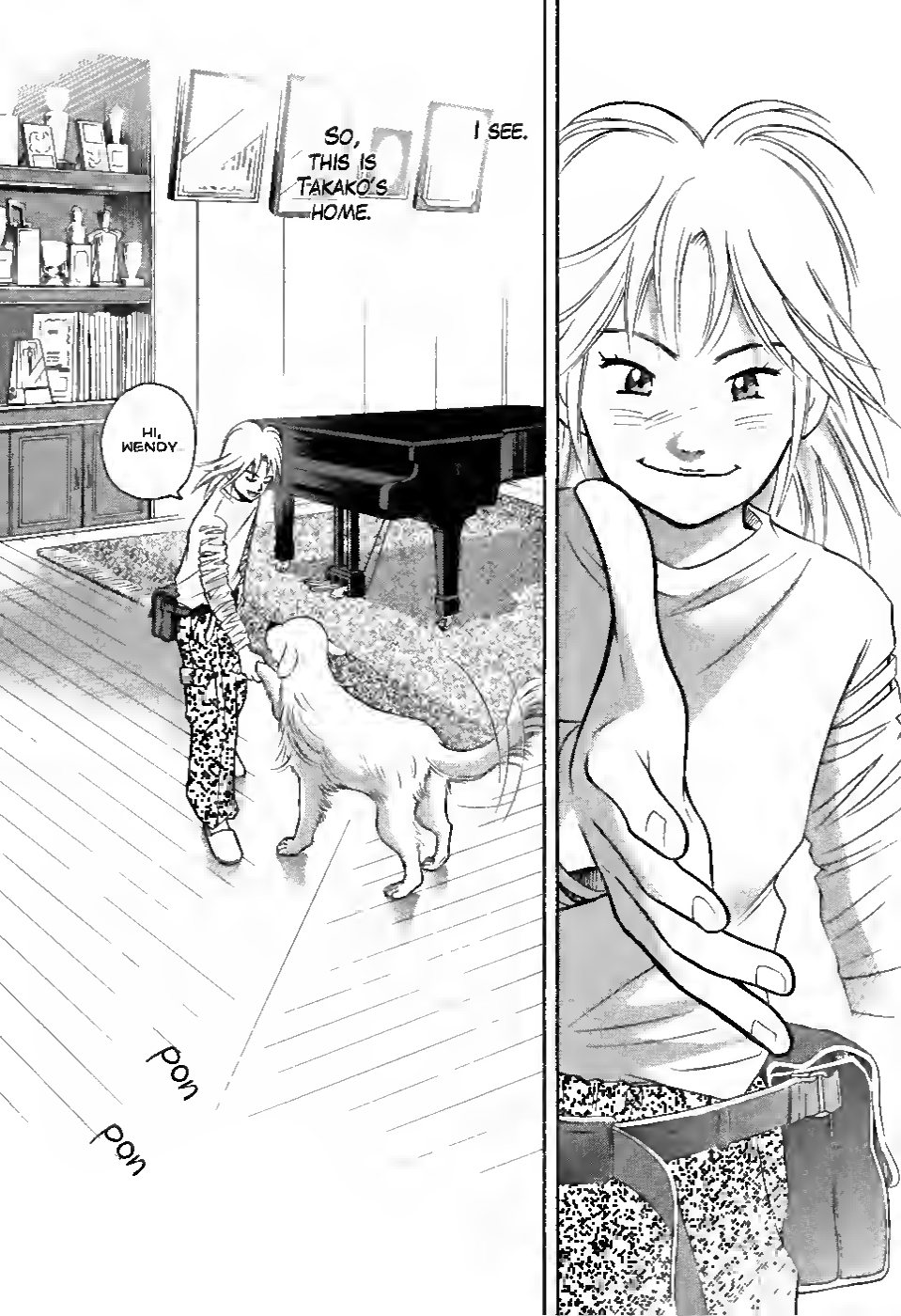

MA-

MARU-
YAMA
TAKAKO
!!
56th All Japan National
Students' Piano Concours
Elementary School Division
Judge's Special Recognition Award
Maruyama Takako
Judge's Special Recognition Award
Maruyama Takako
THE BATHROOM PRINCESS.

YOU CAN'T COME IN UNTIL THIS IMPORTANT THING IS DONE
GO BACK!
HEY, HEY, WENDY
WOOF


WENDY!!

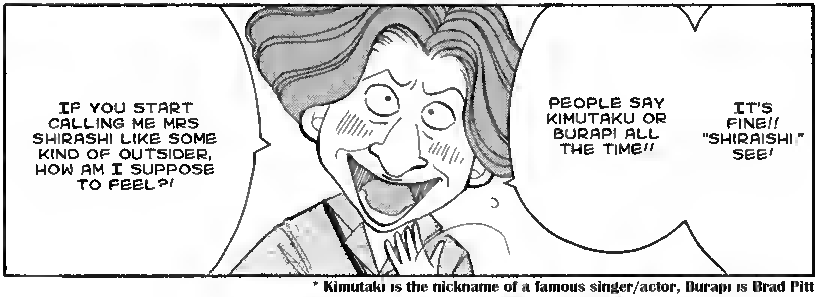

"IMAGINE THAT, TOO!"
"WE DON'T HAVE ANY DOGS AROUND HERE DAMMIT!"
"I'M ALMOST THERE BUT WENDY, WHO IS ALWAYS WITH ME, IS NOT HERE SO I CAN'T COMPLETE THE IMAGE
"YES, WENDY!"


SO, THIS IS TAKAKO'S HOME.
I SEE.
HI, WENDY
pon
pon

WHAT KIND OF SOUND DOES YOUR MASTER LIKE?
SO,
PON
PON
BUT I HAVE PLAYED YOUR SUBSTITUTE IN THE PAST QUITE BRILLIANTLY
I'M NOT ASKING FOR FULL REIMBURSEMENT.
HEY, WORK WITH ME A LITTLE HERE
IT WAS IN A TIGHT LITTLE BATHROOM
"WENDY !!!"
SWOOSH

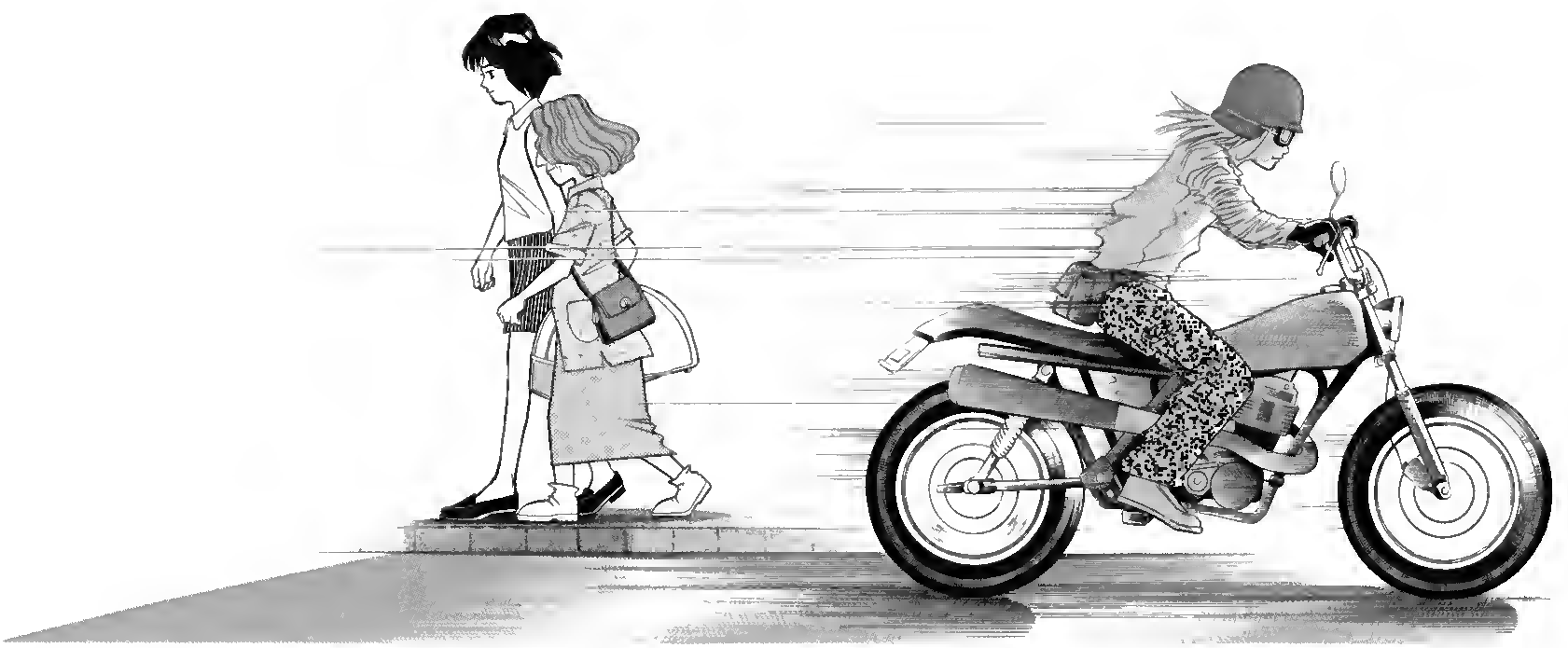
ADJUSTED THE SOUND OF THE PIANO.
I CAREFULLY, ATTENTIVELY
SO YOU OWE ME ONE
AND THE TWO OF US WERE TRYING OUR VERY BEST.
WHILE RECALLING MEMORIES
OF THAT LONG, EVENTFUL DAY.
pon
pon

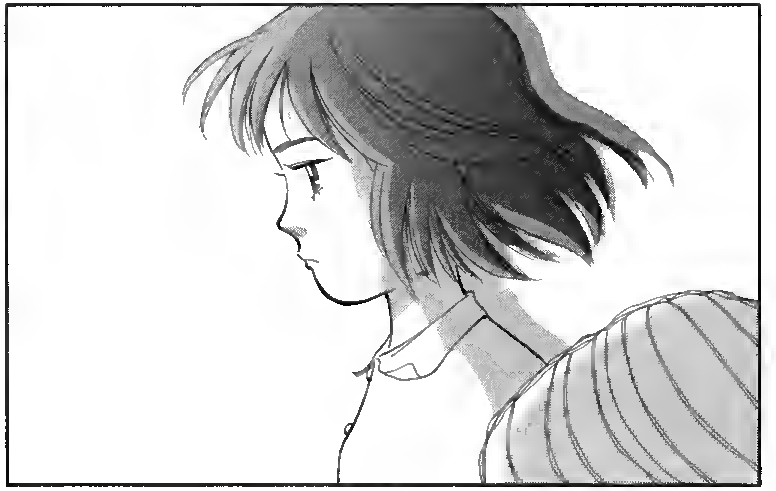
IT'S LIKE I'M CALLING ON A LOWLY SERVANT OR SOMETHING !!
IT WAS MY THOUGHTLESS WAY OF ADDRESSING YOU WHEN I WAS STILL A CHILD. BUT NOW, OMITTING PROPER RESPECT IS JUST RUDE!
SHIRAISHI IS SHIRAISHI!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?


IF YOU START CALLING ME MRS SHIRASHI LIKE SOME KIND OF OUTSIDER, HOW AM I SUPPOSE TO FEEL?!
PEOPLE SAY KIMUTAKU OR BURAPI ALL THE TIME!!
IT'S FINE!! "SHIRAISHI" SEE!

* Kimutaku is the nickname of a famous singer/actor, Burapi is Brad Pitt

SIGH
I WENT ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE STATION TO PICK YOU UP AND NOT ONLY DO YOU NOT LET ME CARRY YOUR BAGS YOU SAY ALL THESE THINGS TO ME
WELL IF WE CALL YOU SHIRAYUKI, THEN IT'D BE PRINCESS SHIRAYUKI! OHH, WOULD YOU RATHER WE CALL YOU PRINCESS ?!
NO, NO THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOME BRAND OF SAKE
SFX VRRRRRRRR
Princess!!
Argh

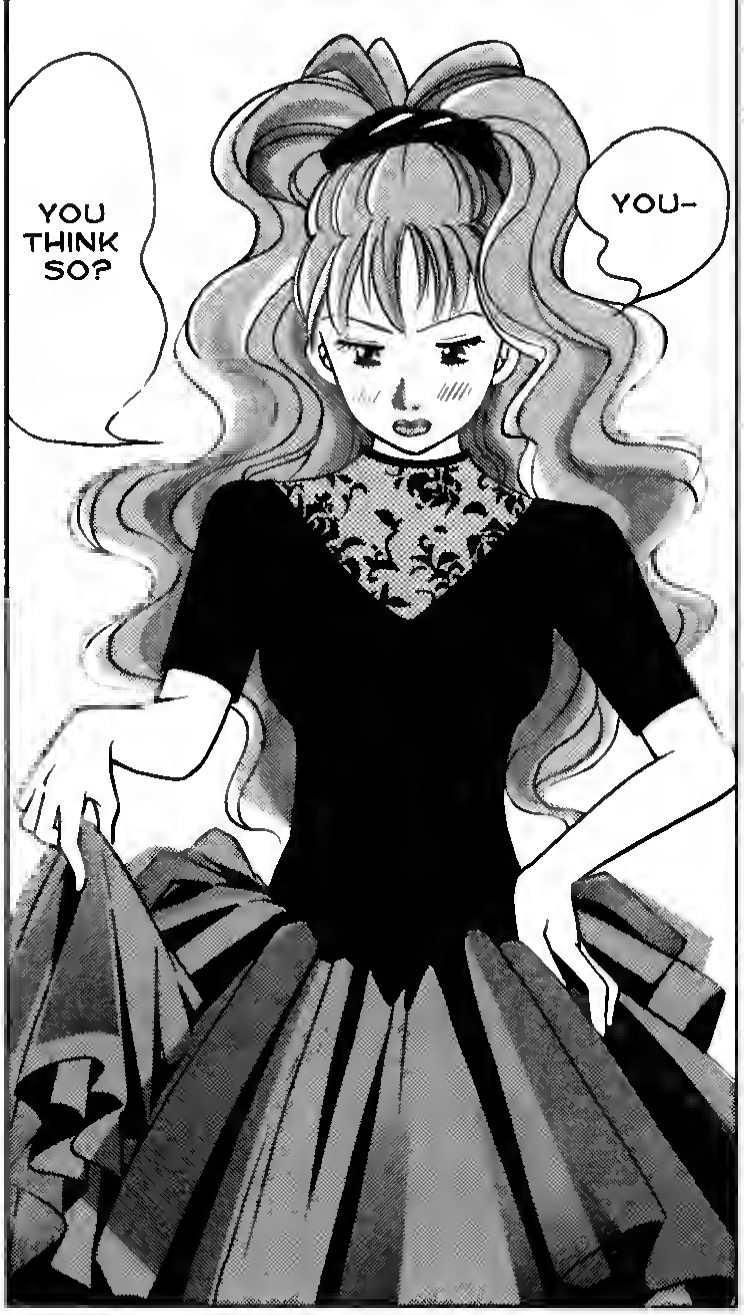


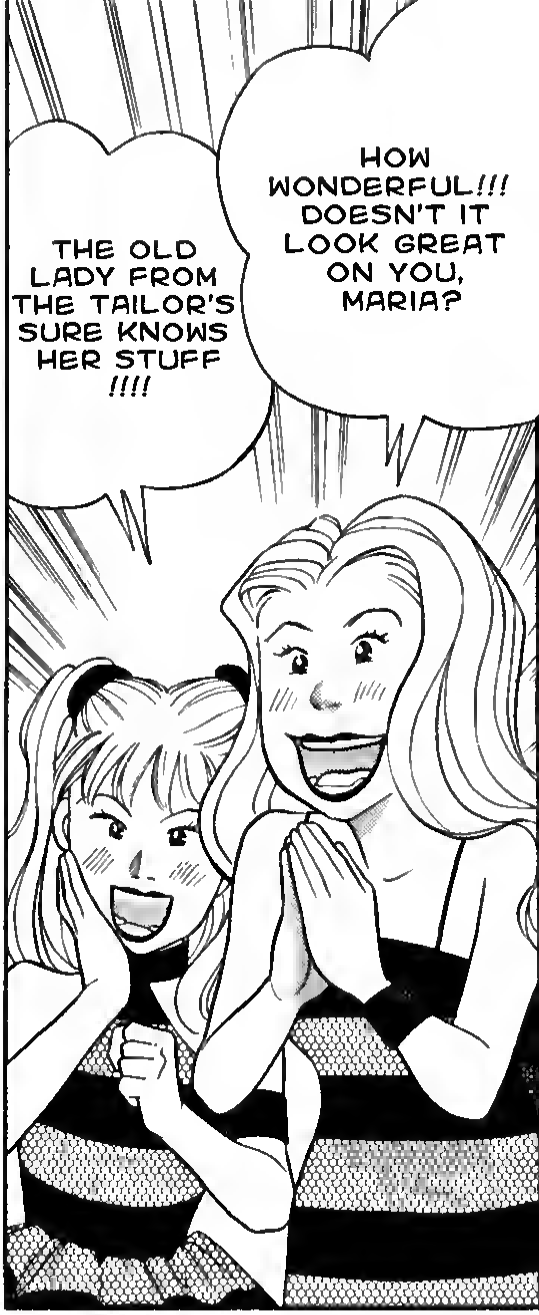


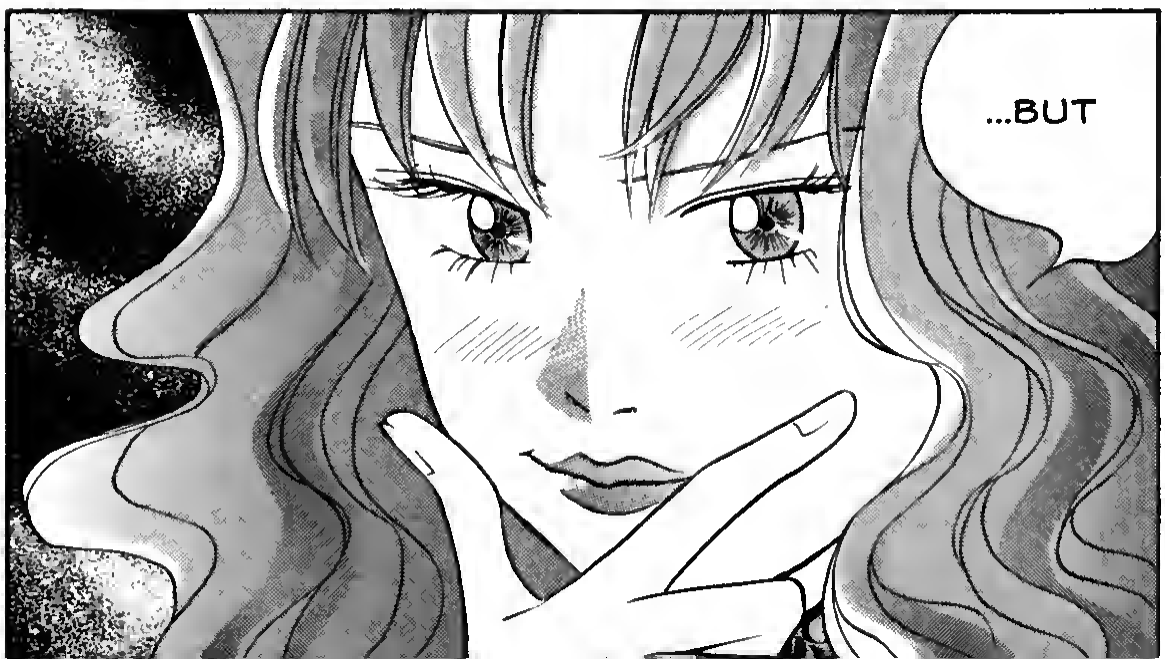
番外編　調律師・カイ　END

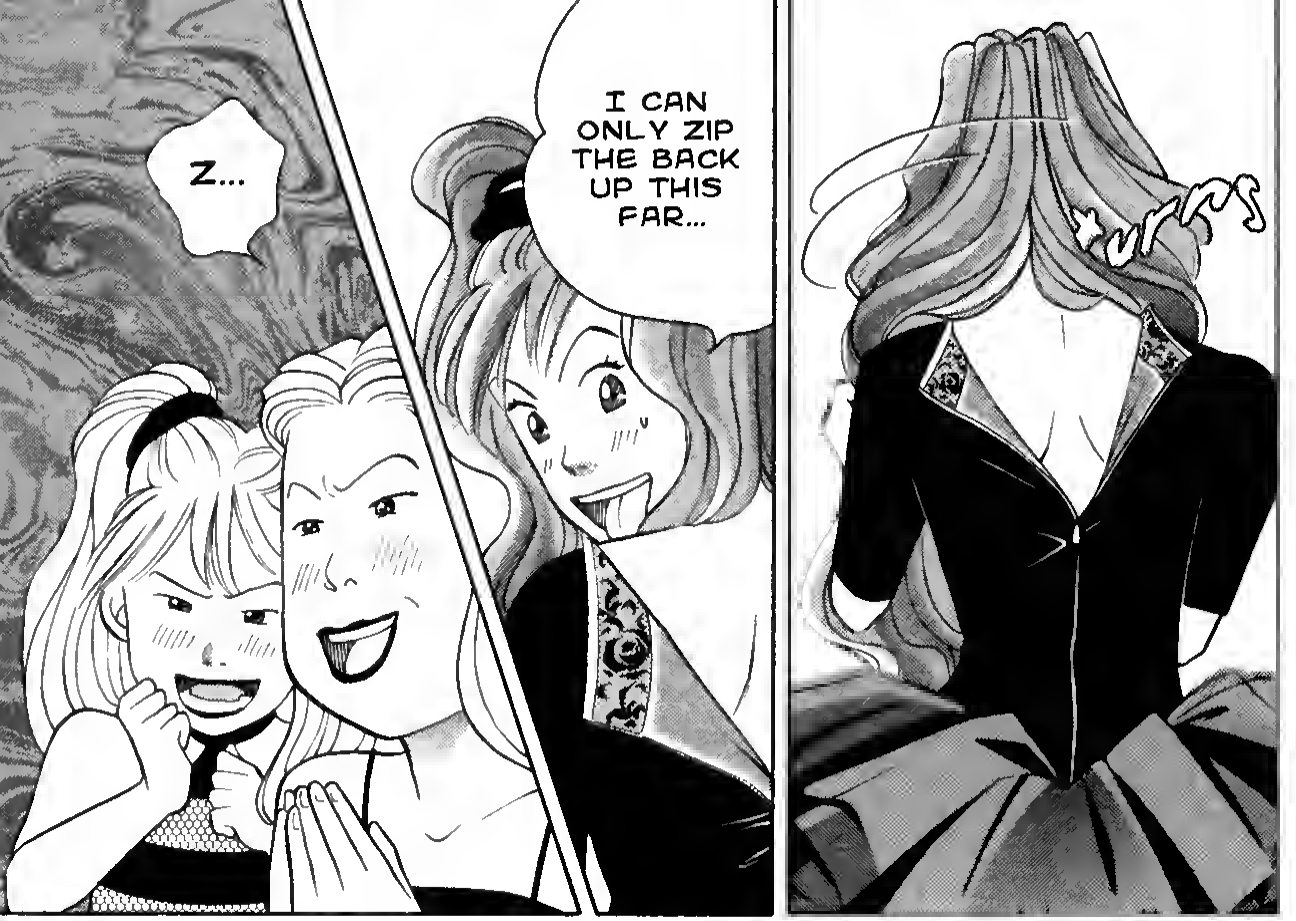
Chapter 73

Sunday Night ①

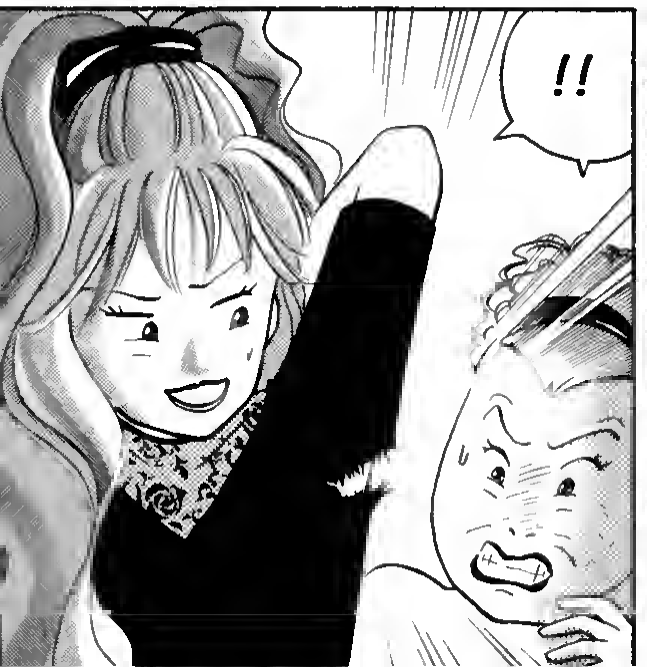

YOU THINK SO?
YOU-


HOW WONDERFUL!!! DOESN'T IT LOOK GREAT ON YOU, MARIA?
THE OLD LADY FROM THE TAILOR'S SURE KNOWS HER STUFF !!!!

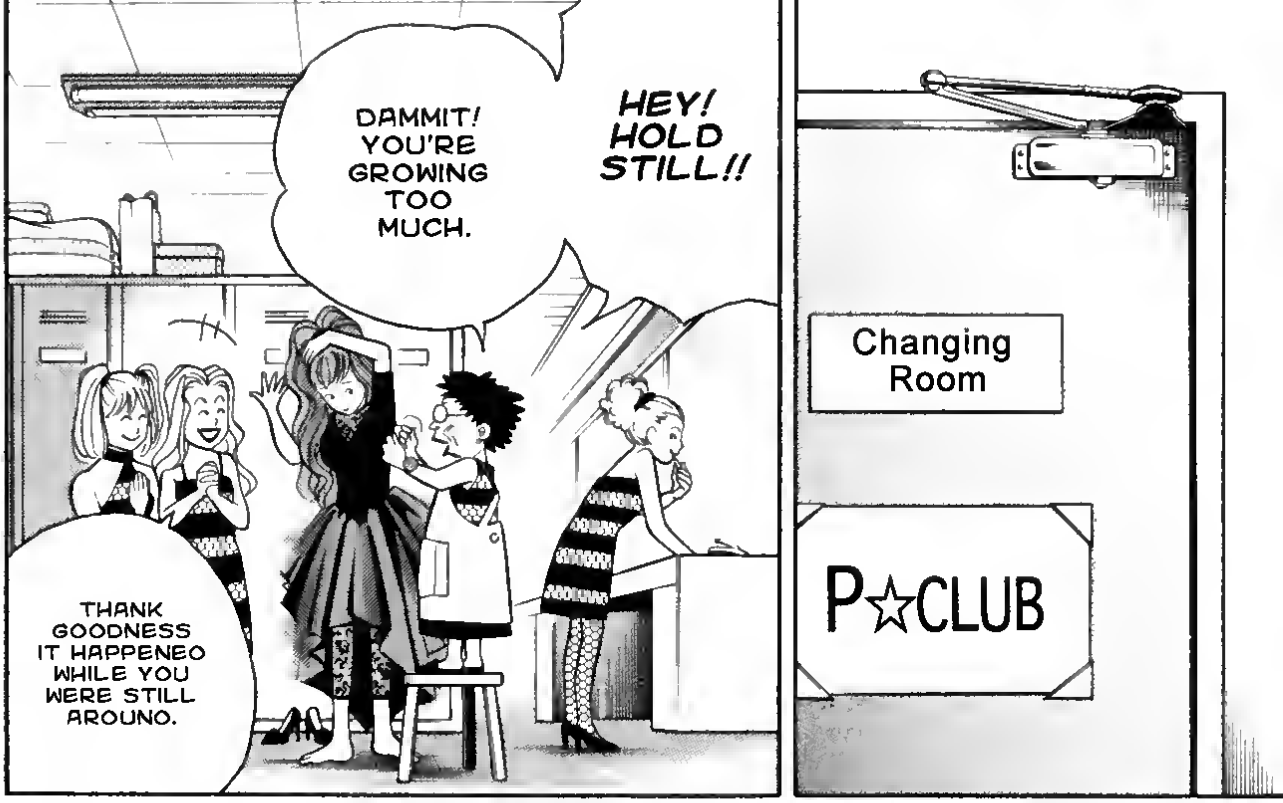

...BUT

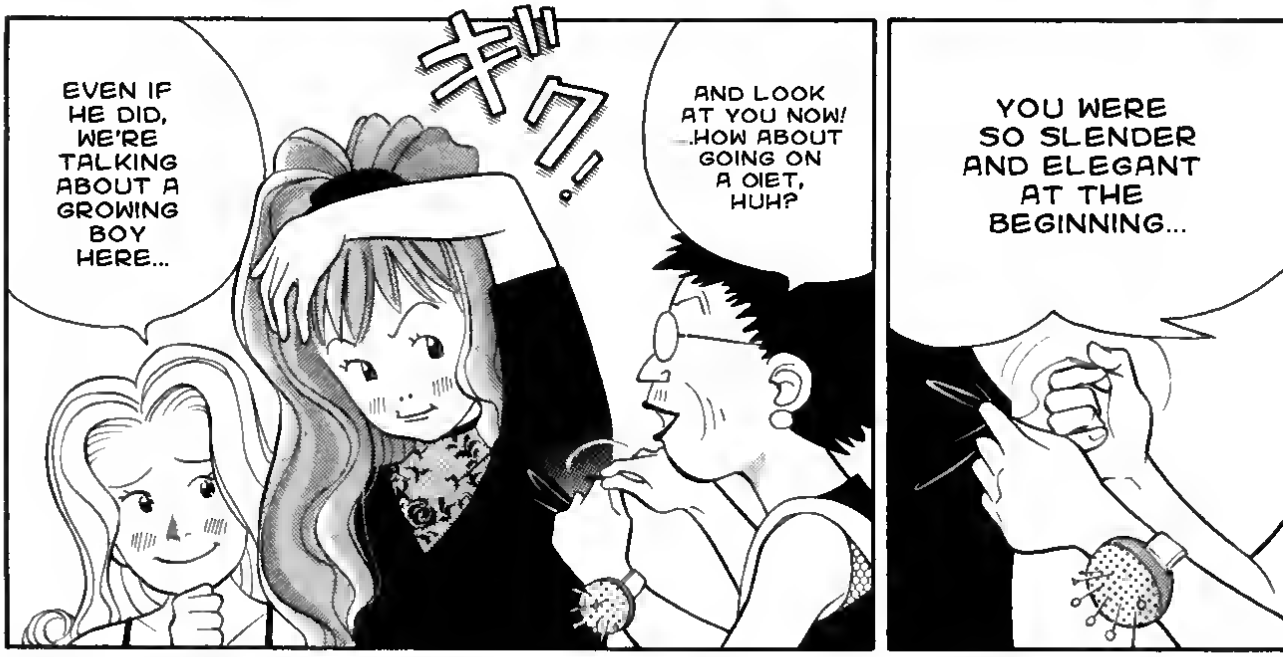

I CAN ONLY ZIP THE BACK UP THIS FAR...
Z...
turn

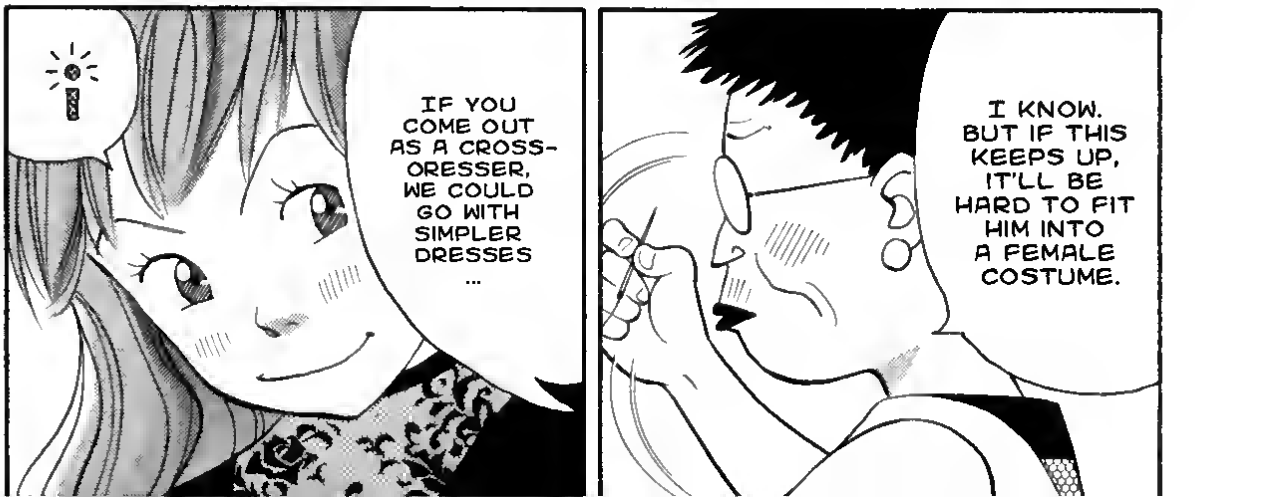
RIPPPPPPPPPPP

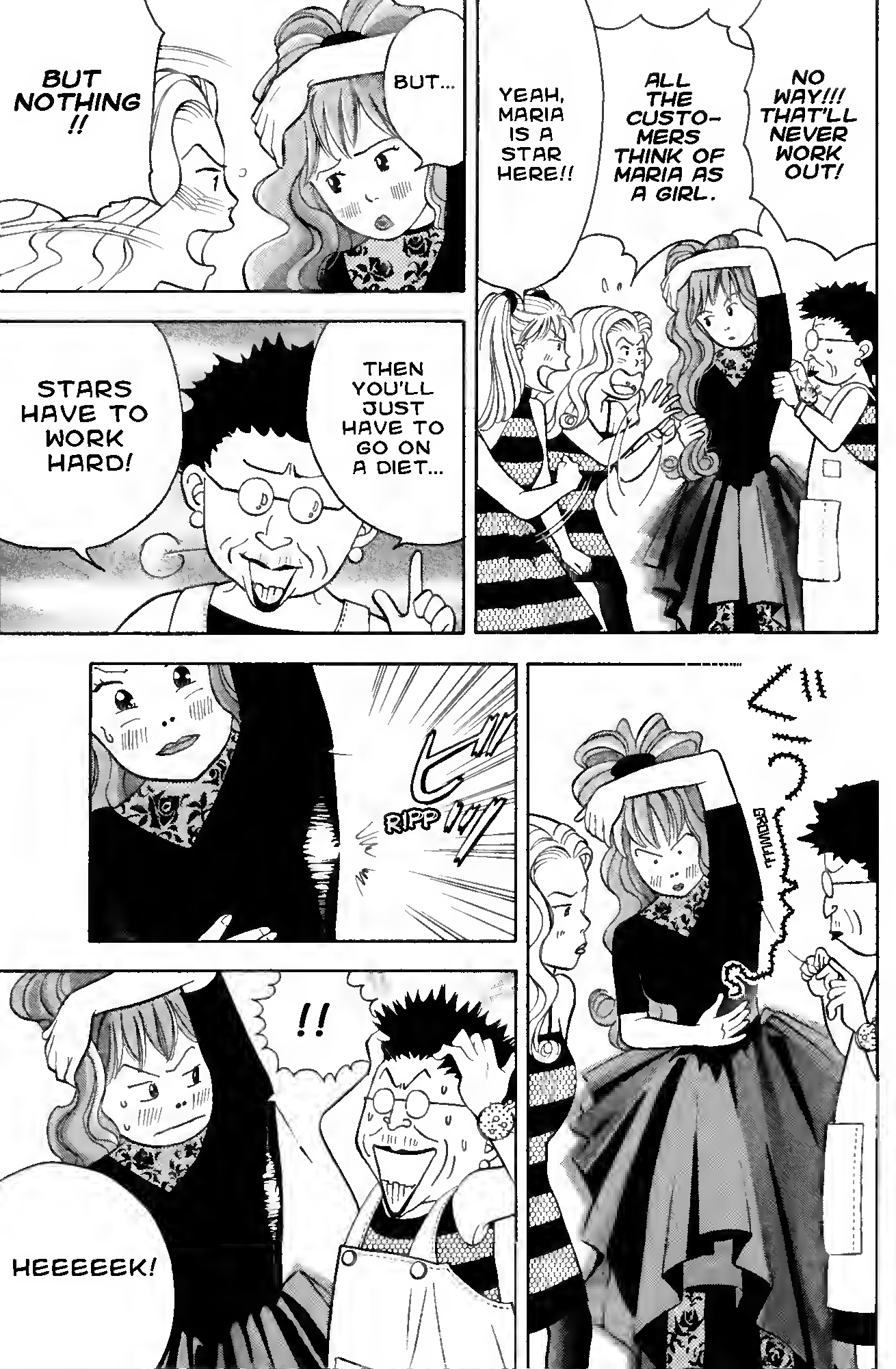

!!

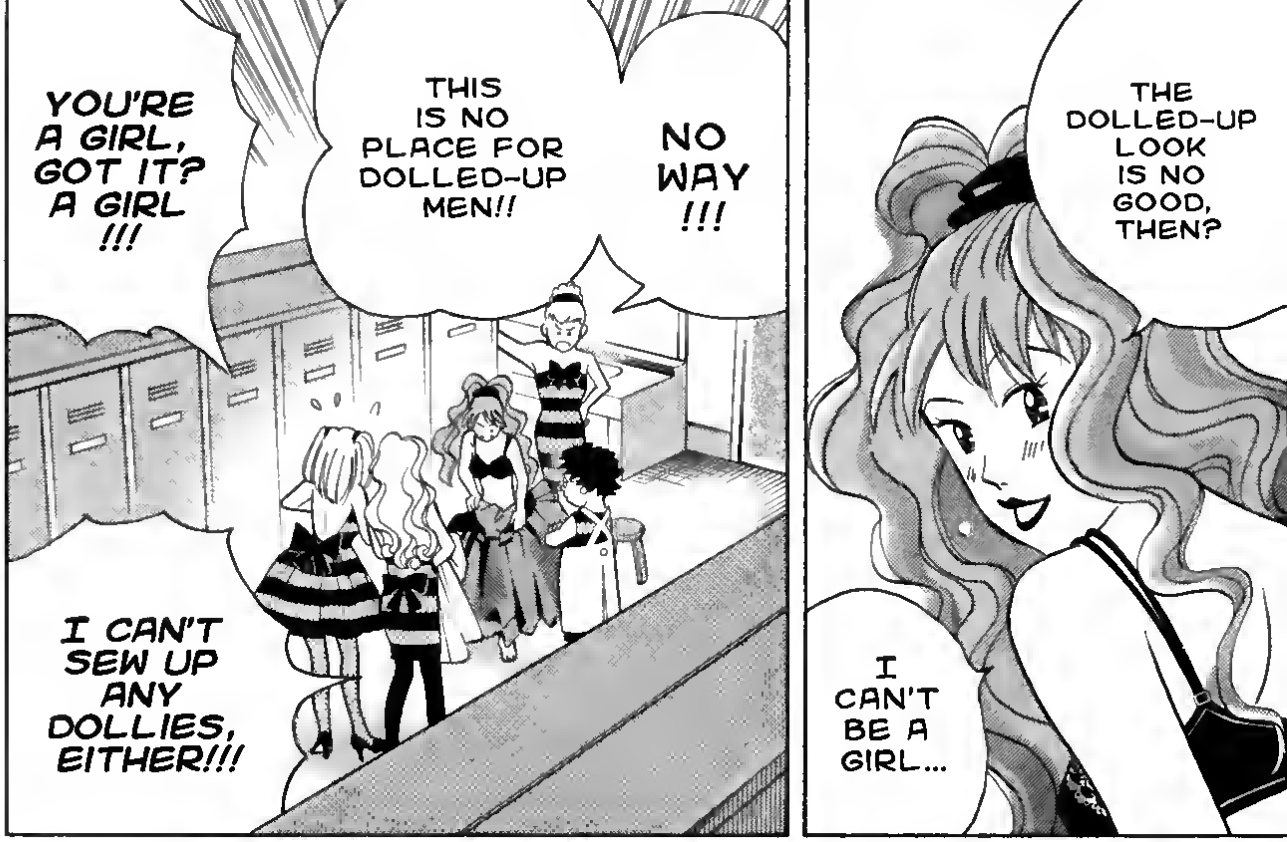
HERE, I'LL HELP YOU!
I DON'T KNOW...
YEAH, YOU DUMMY!! JUST PULL ON IT!!
YOU CAN DO IT!!! TRY HARDER !!


DAMMIT! YOU'RE GROWING TOO MUCH.
HEY! HOLD STILL!!
THANK GOODNESS IT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE STILL AROUND.
Changing Room
P☆CLUB

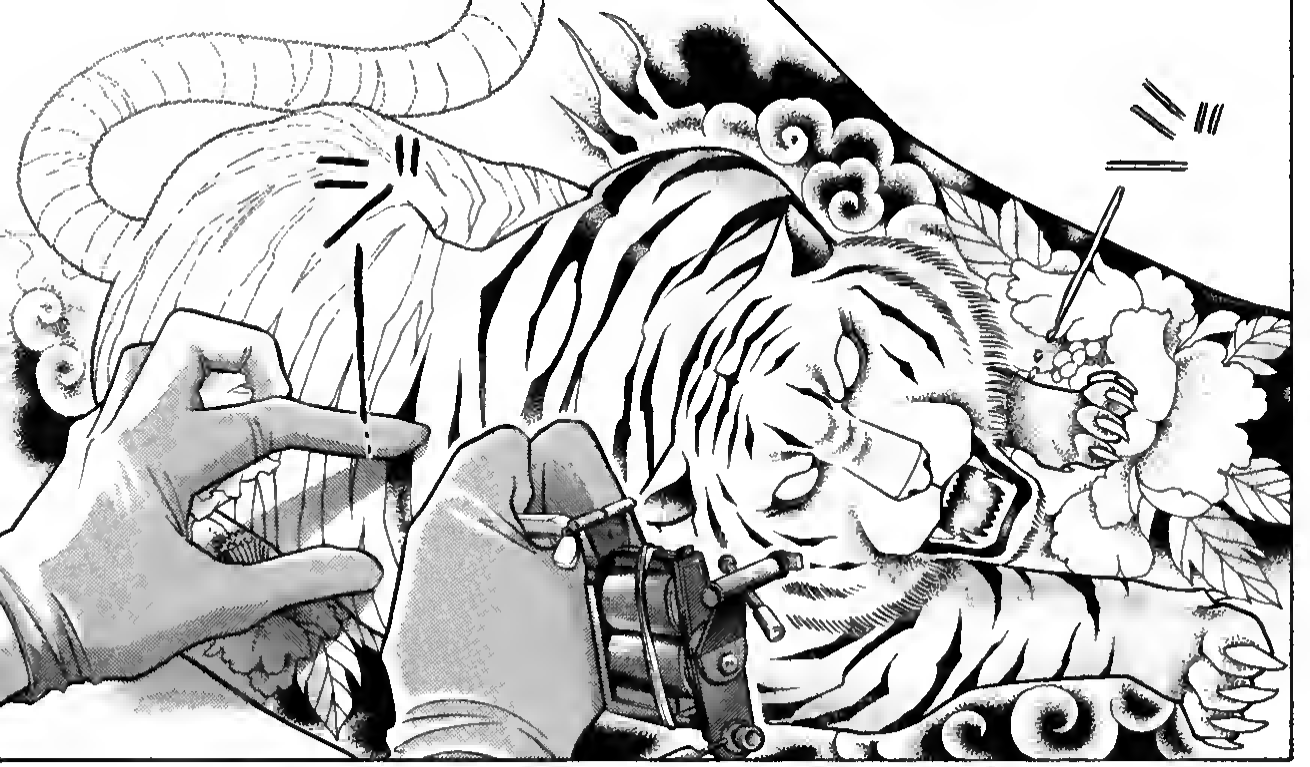

EVEN IF HE DID, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A GROWING BOY HERE...
キュン!
AND LOOK AT YOU NOW! HOW ABOUT GOING ON A DIET, HUH?
YOU WERE SO SLENDER AND ELEGANT AT THE BEGINNING...


IF YOU COME OUT AS A CROSS-DRESSER, WE COULD GO WITH SIMPLER DRESSES ...
I KNOW. BUT IF THIS KEEPS UP, IT'LL BE HARD TO FIT HIM INTO A FEMALE COSTUME.

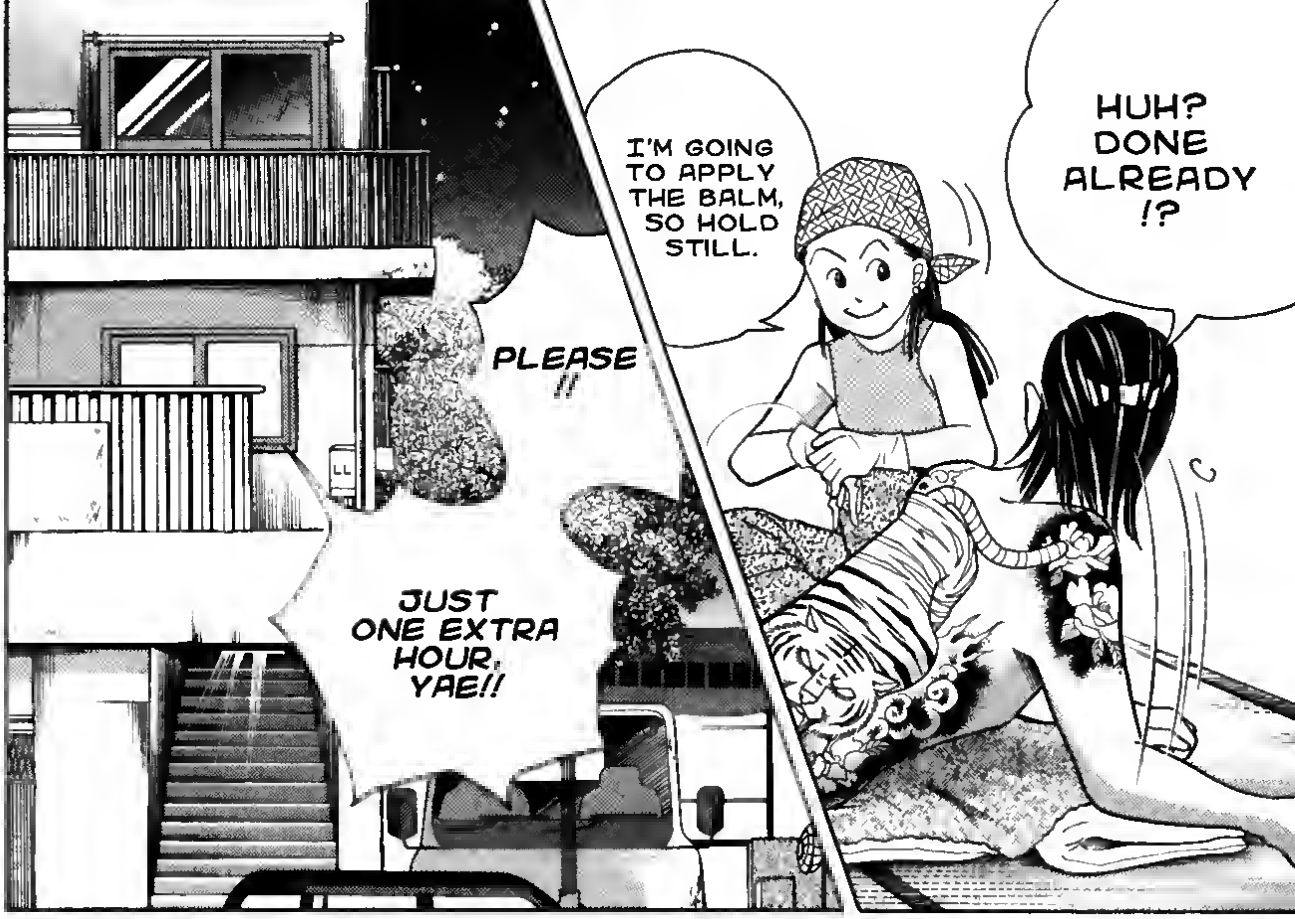

BUT...
BUT NOTHING !!
NO WAY!!! THAT'LL NEVER WORK OUT!
ALL THE CUSTO-MERS THINK OF MARIA AS A GIRL.
YEAH, MARIA IS A STAR HERE!!
THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GO ON A DIET...
STARS HAVE TO WORK HARD!
GRUMBLE
RIPP
!!
HEEEEEK!

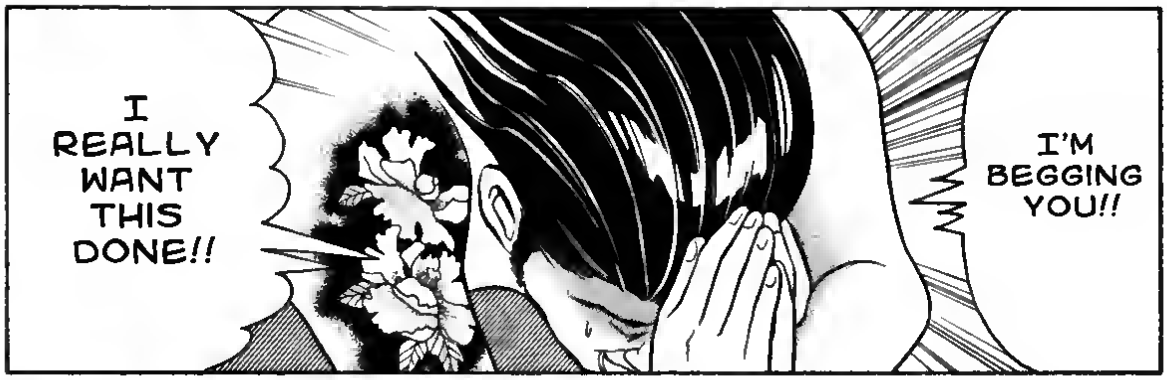

YOU'RE A GIRL, GOT IT? A GIRL !!!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR DOLLED-UP MEN!!
NO WAY !!!
I CAN'T SEW UP ANY DOLLIES, EITHER!!!
THE DOLLED-UP LOOK IS NO GOOD, THEN?
I CAN'T BE A GIRL...

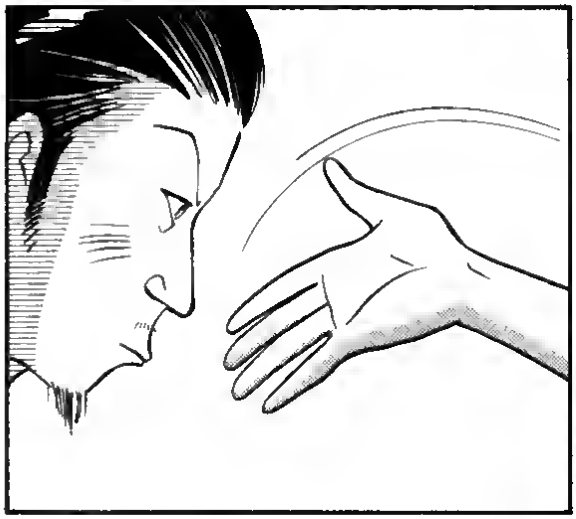
(有) 山 工務店

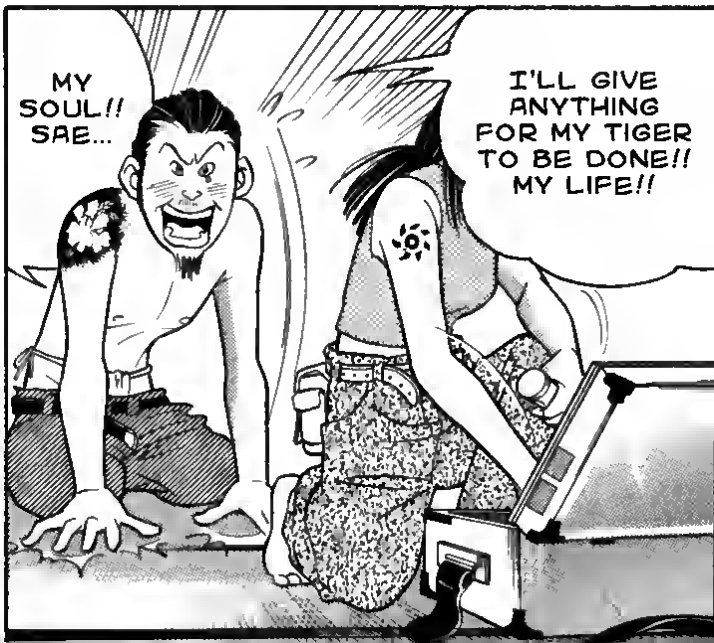


FOR THE DAY.
THAT IS IT

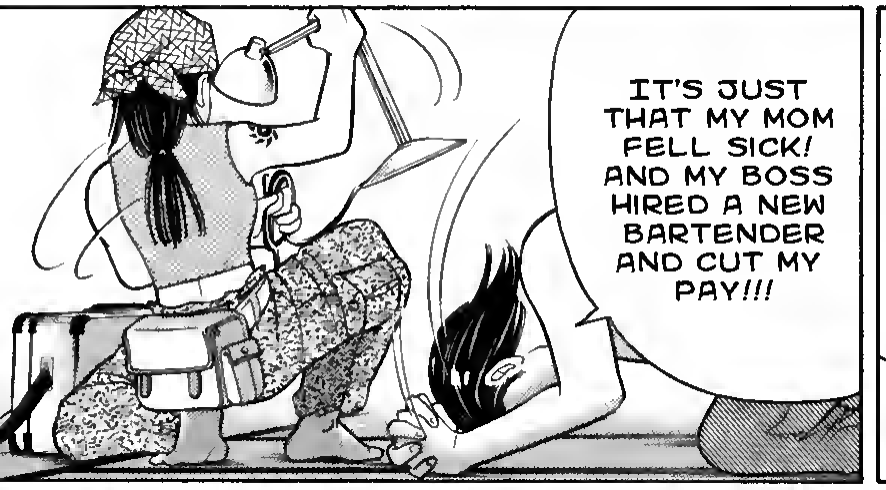

PLEASE!!
JUST ONE EXTRA HOUR, YAE!!
I'M GOING TO APPLY THE BALM, SO HOLD STILL.
HUH? DONE ALREADY !?


I REALLY WANT THIS DONE!!
I'M BEGGING YOU!!

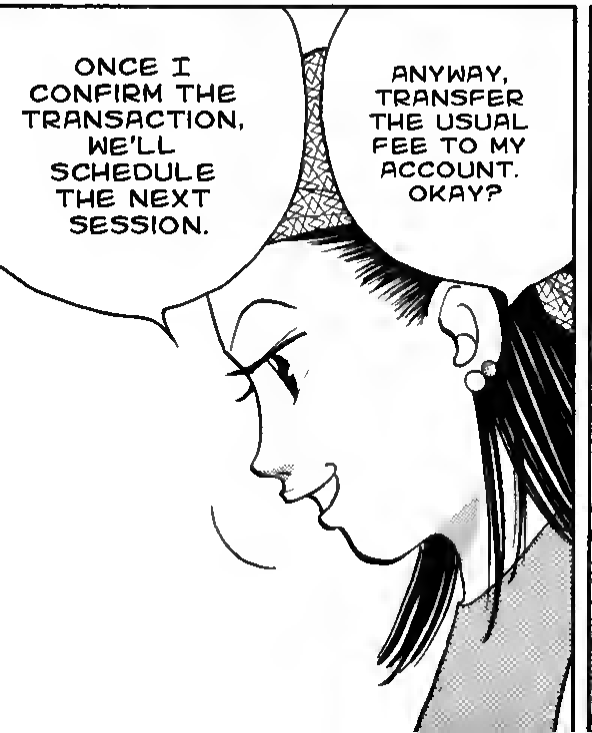



MY SOUL!! SAE...
I'LL GIVE ANYTHING FOR MY TIGER TO BE DONE!! MY LIFE!!

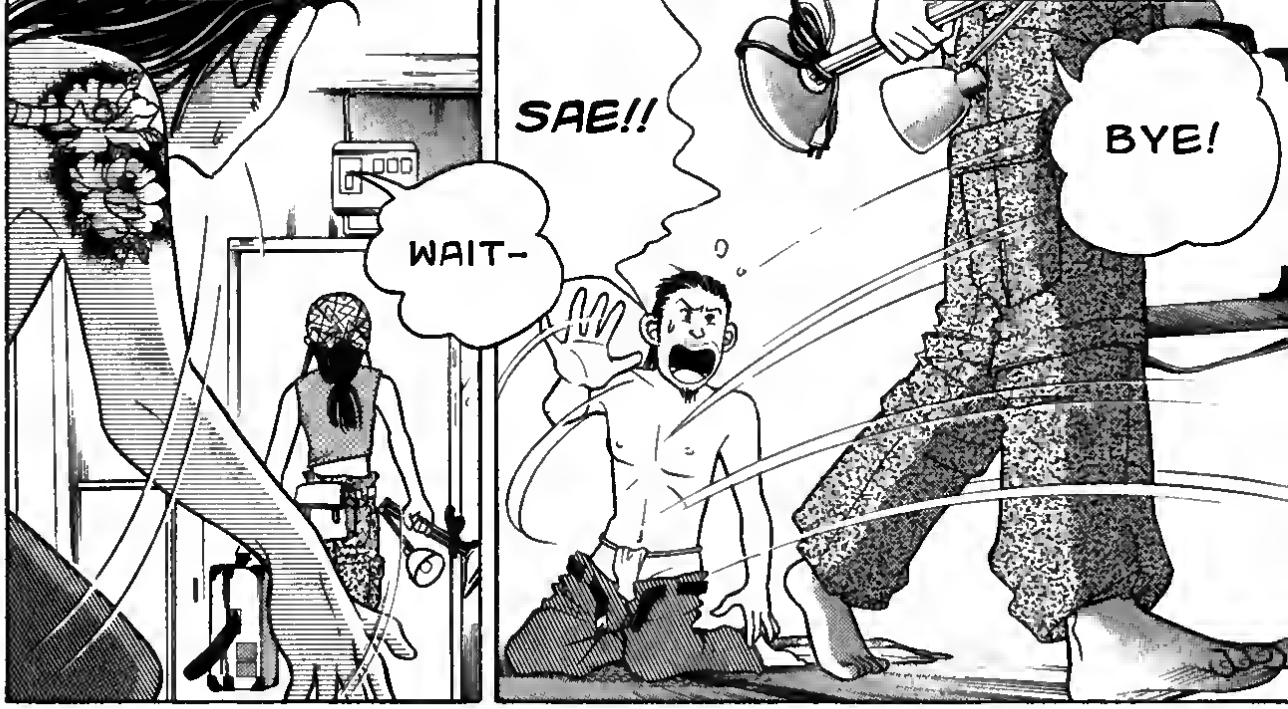
SO PAY UP THE MONEY YOU OWE ME!
THEN WE'LL TALK!!

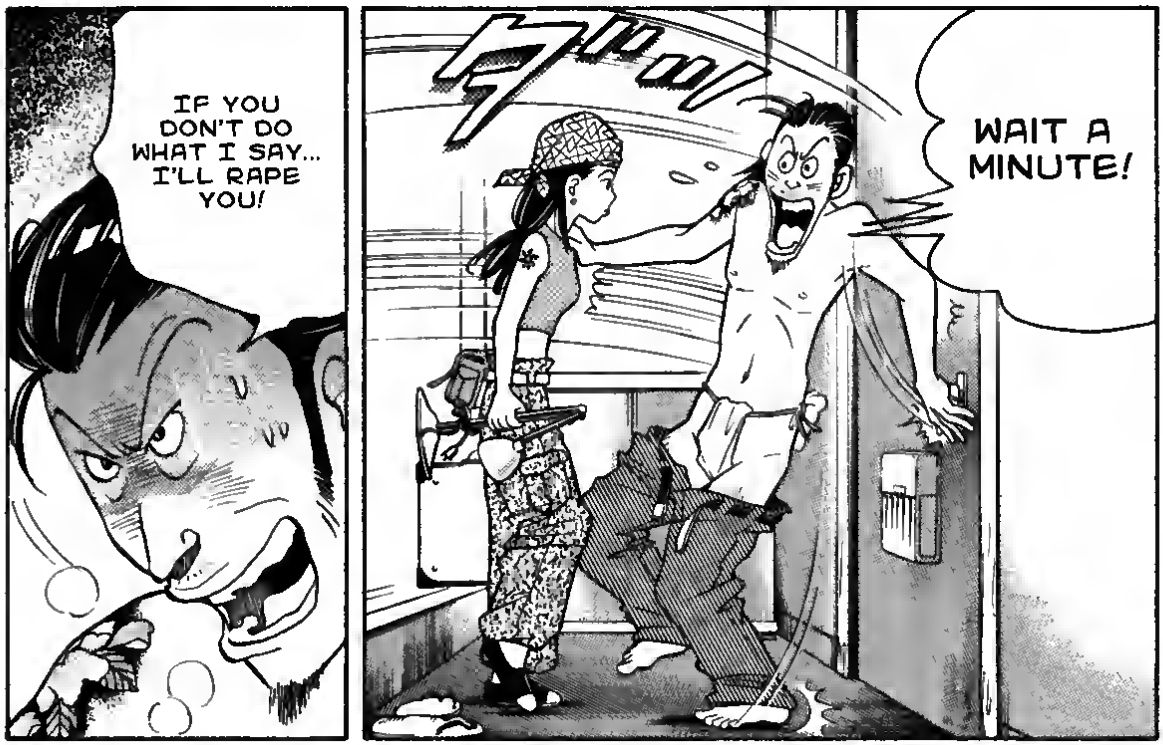

IT'S JUST THAT MY MOM FELL SICK! AND MY BOSS HIRED A NEW BARTENDER AND CUT MY PAY!!!

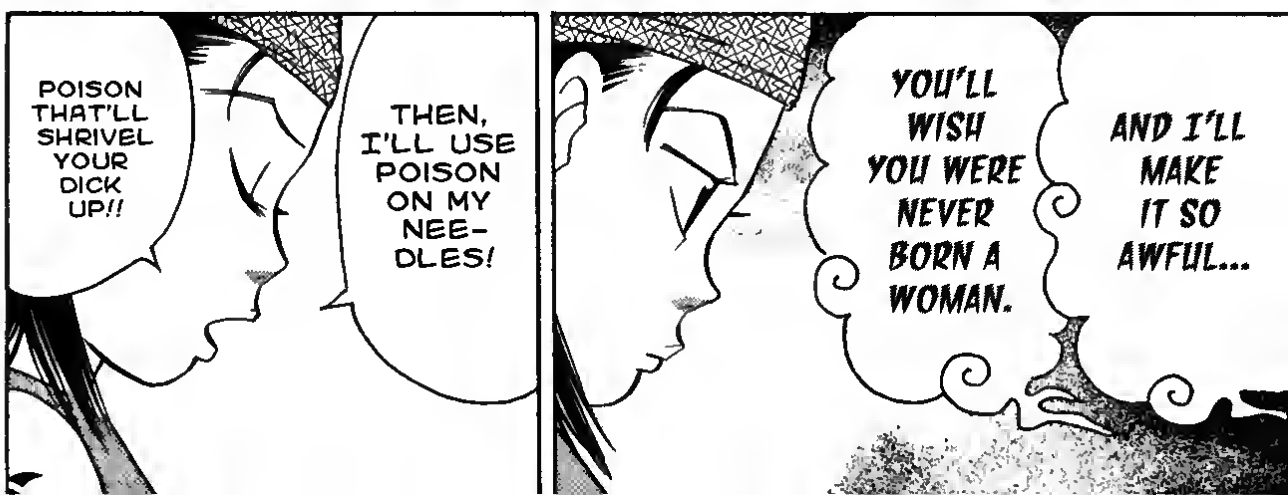
AHH, UHHH...
I'LL DEFI-NITELY GET YOU YOUR MONEY! PRO-MISE.

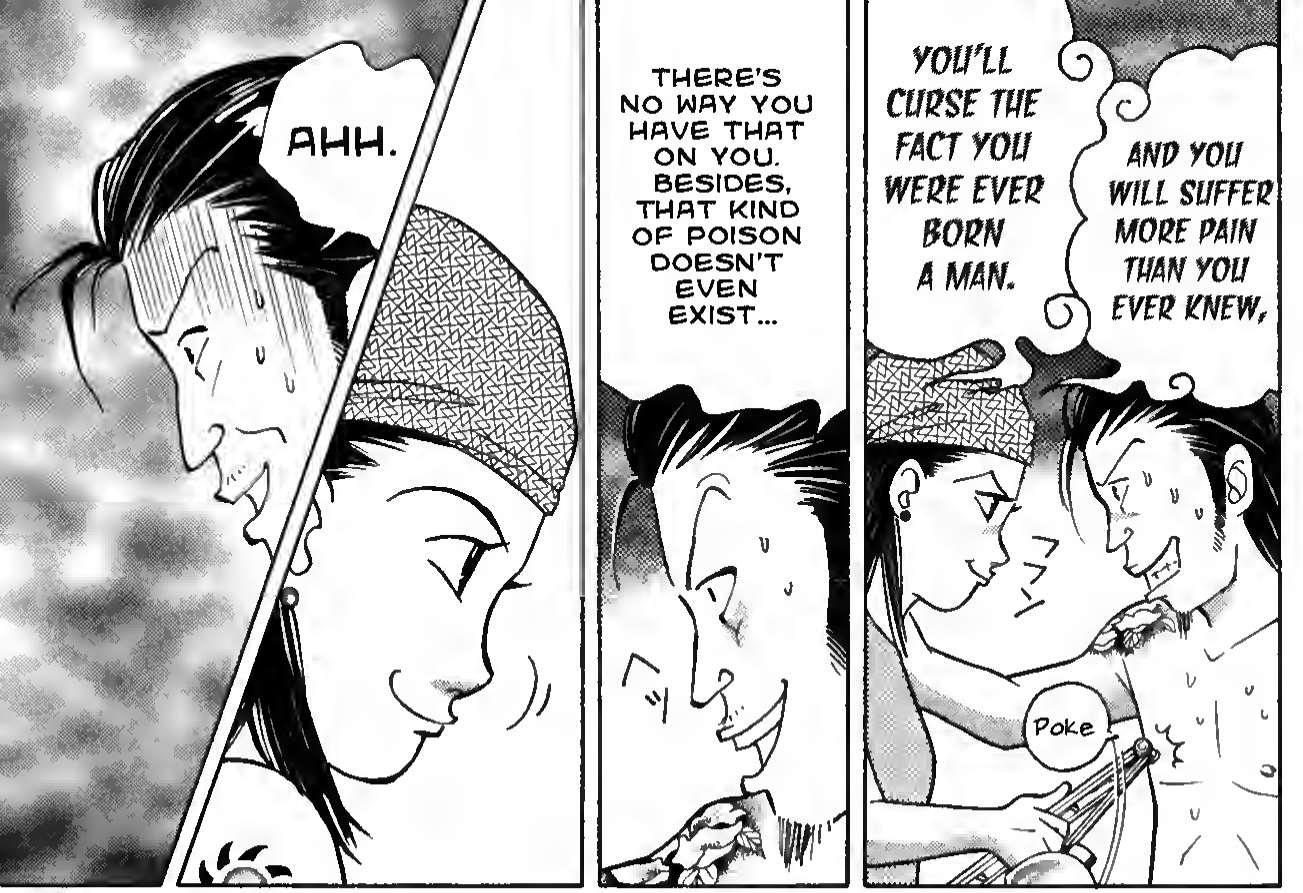

ANYWAY, TRANSFER THE USUAL FEE TO MY ACCOUNT. OKAY?
ONCE I CONFIRM THE TRANSACTION, WE'LL SCHEDULE THE NEXT SESSION.

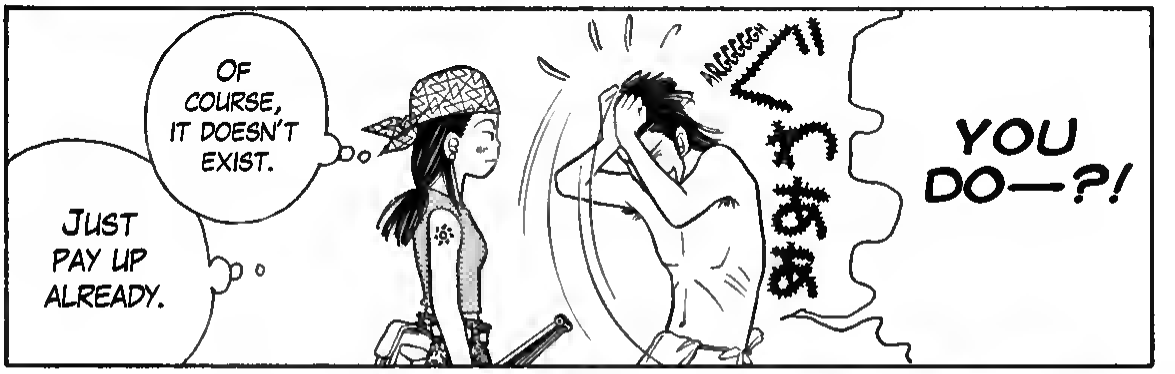
FORGET IT. I HEARD YOU WERE FOOLING AROUND WITH SOME GIRL NAMED HELS, SHOWING HER A GOOD TIME.
WHO TOLD YOU THAT NONSENSE ?

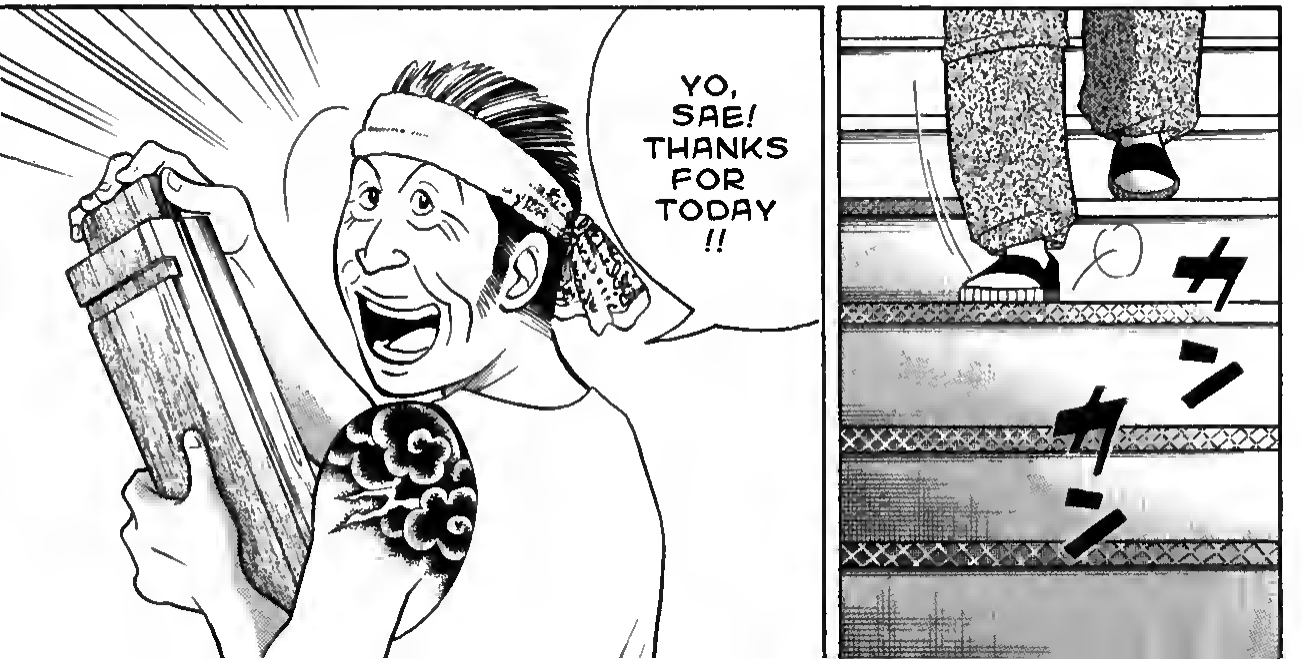

WAIT-
SAE!!
BYE!


IF YOU DON'T DO WHAT I SAY... I'LL RAPE YOU!
WAIT A MINUTE!

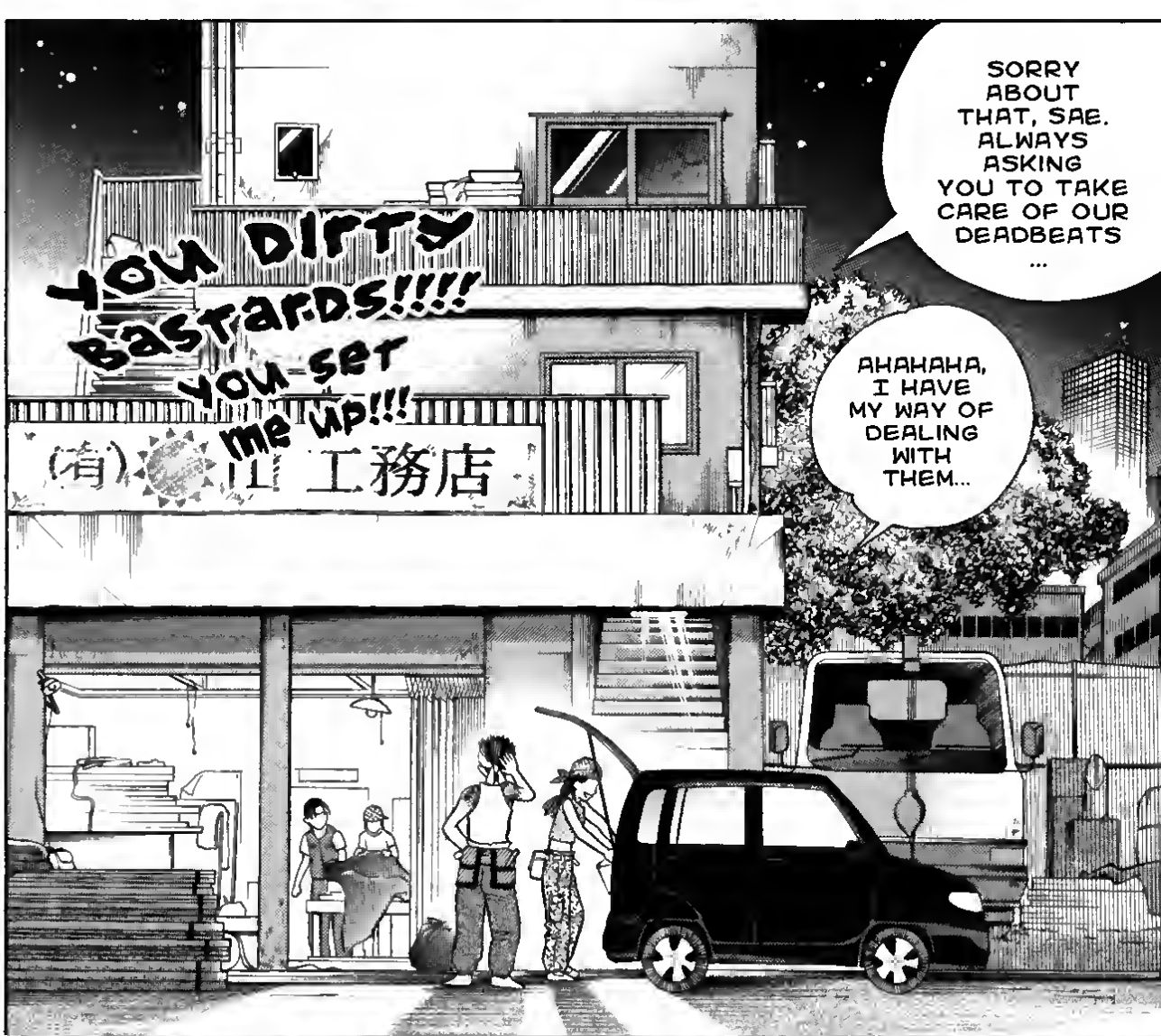

POISON THAT'LL SHRIVEL YOUR DICK UP!!
THEN, I'LL USE POISON ON MY NEE-DLES!
YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE NEVER BORN A WOMAN.
AND I'LL MAKE IT SO AWFUL...

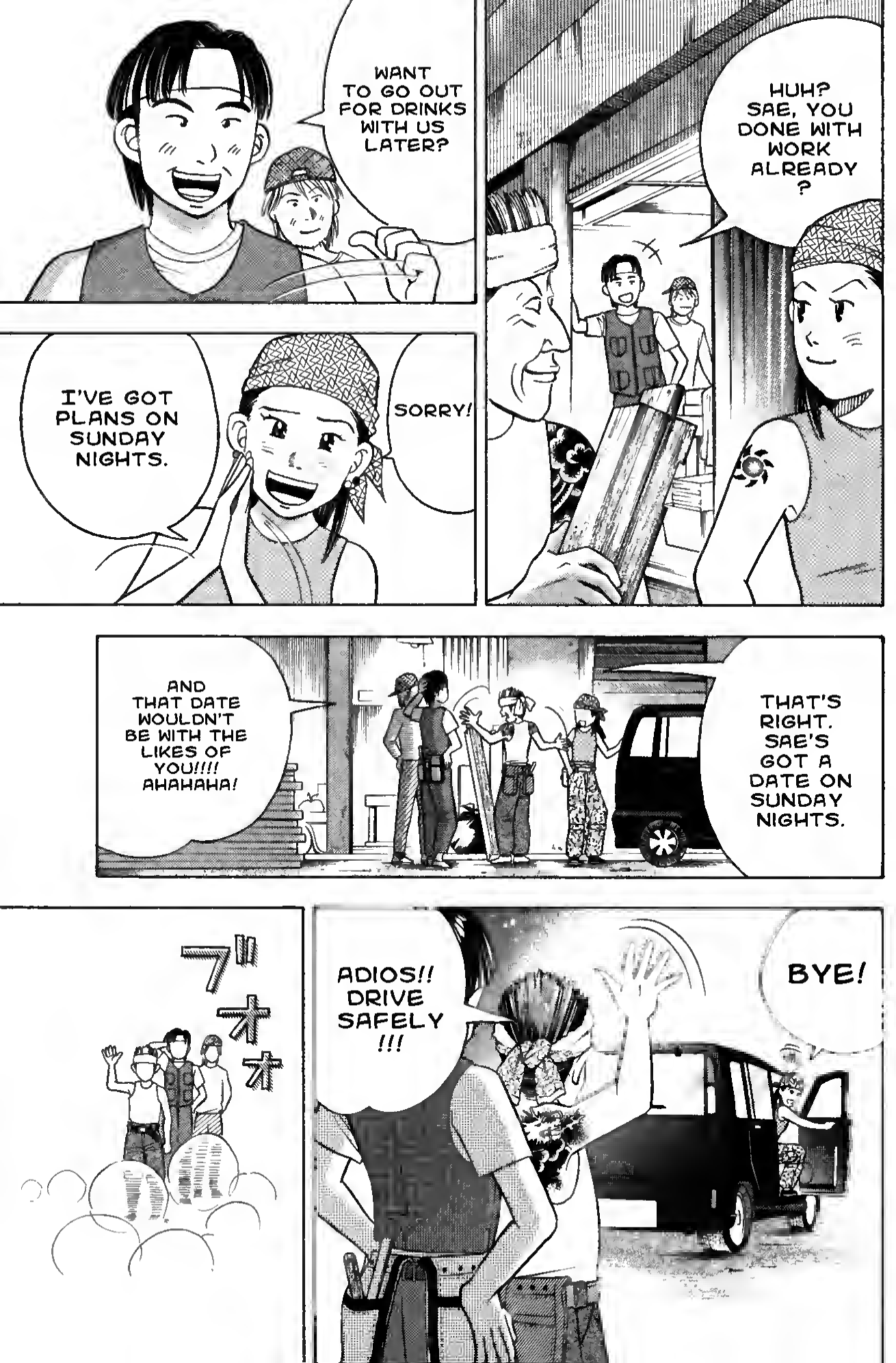

AHH.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU HAVE THAT ON YOU. BESIDES, THAT KIND OF POISON DOESN'T EVEN EXIST...
YOU'LL CURSE THE FACT YOU WERE EVER BORN A MAN.
AND YOU WILL SUFFER MORE PAIN THAN YOU EVER KNEW,
Poke


OF COURSE, IT DOESN'T EXIST.
JUST PAY UP ALREADY.
KRAGGGGH
YOU DO—?!

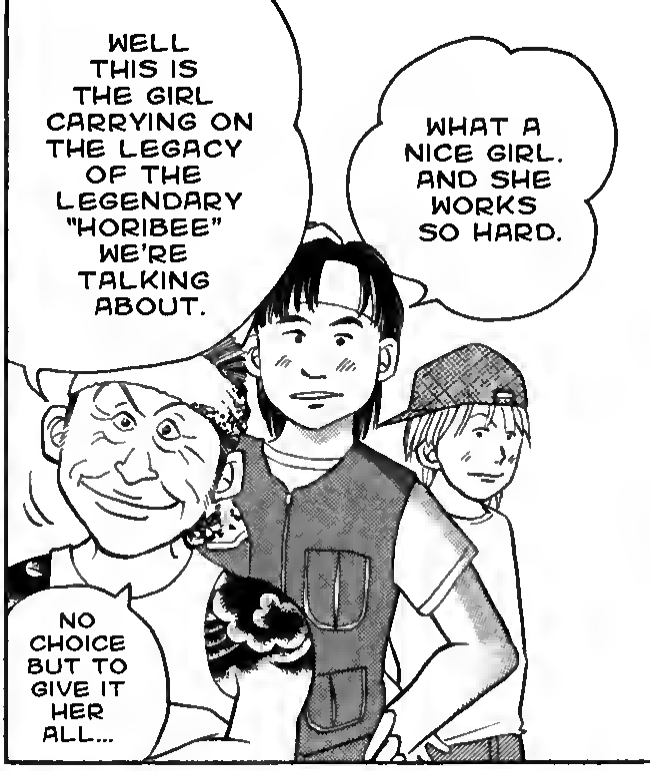

YO, SAE! THANKS FOR TODAY !!
カン
カン

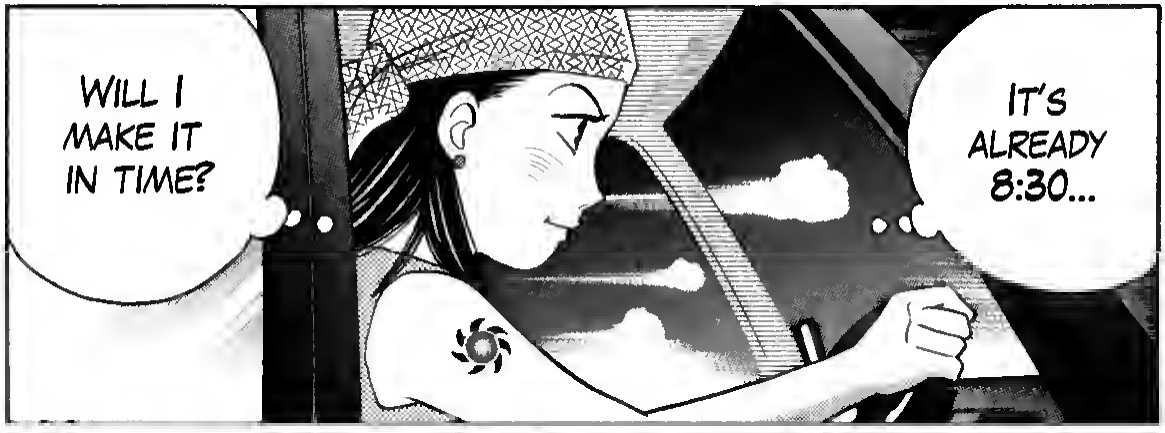
YOU BET!! ME AND MY LITTLE FRIEND HERE!
THANKS, HOW ABOUT YOU GRAMPS? FEELING GOOD?


YOU DIRTY BASTARDS!!!! YOU-SET ME UP!!!
(有) 工務店
SORRY ABOUT THAT, SAE. ALWAYS ASKING YOU TO TAKE CARE OF OUR DEADBEATS ...
AHAHAHA, I HAVE MY WAY OF DEALING WITH THEM...

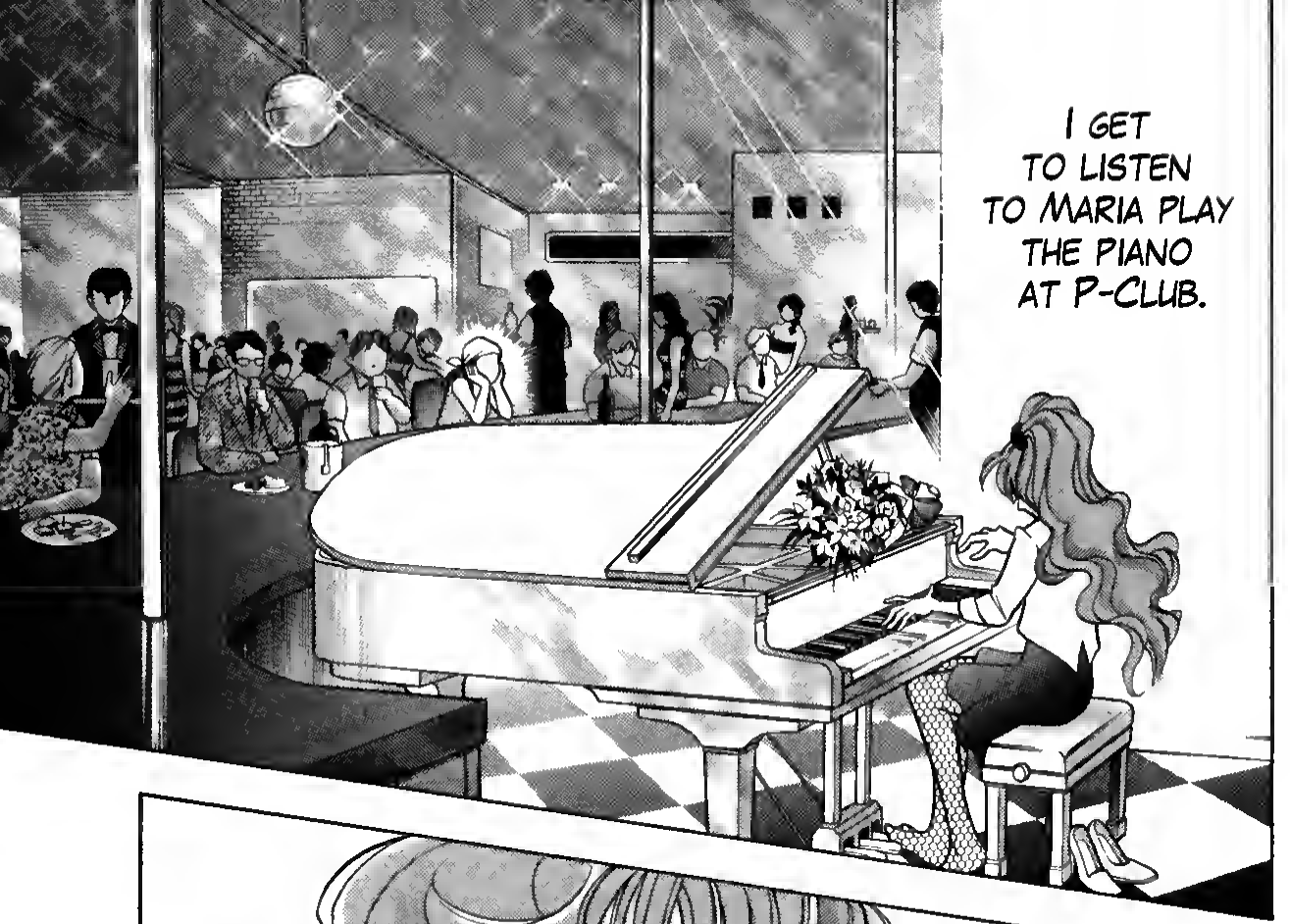

WANT TO GO OUT FOR DRINKS WITH US LATER?
HUH? SAE, YOU DONE WITH WORK ALREADY ?
SORRY!
I'VE GOT PLANS ON SUNDAY NIGHTS.
AND THAT DATE WOULDN'T BE WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!!!! AHAHAHA!
THAT'S RIGHT. SAE'S GOT A DATE ON SUNDAY NIGHTS.
ブオオオ
ADIOS!! DRIVE SAFELY !!!
BYE!

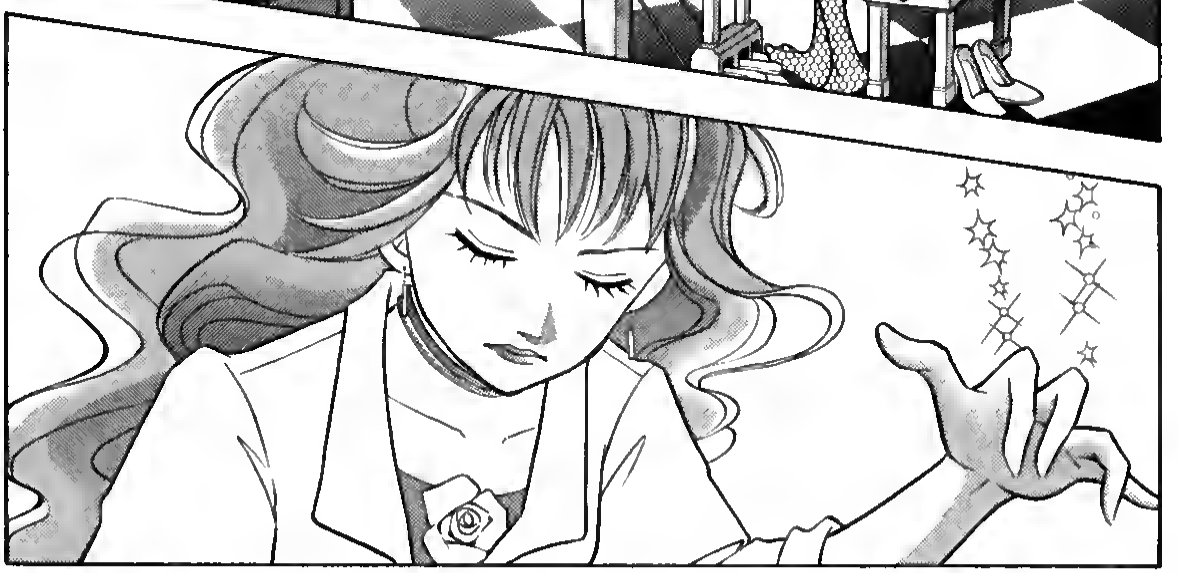
ブオオ


WELL THIS IS THE GIRL CARRYING ON THE LEGACY OF THE LEGENDARY "HORIBEE" WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WHAT A NICE GIRL. AND SHE WORKS SO HARD.
NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE IT HER ALL...

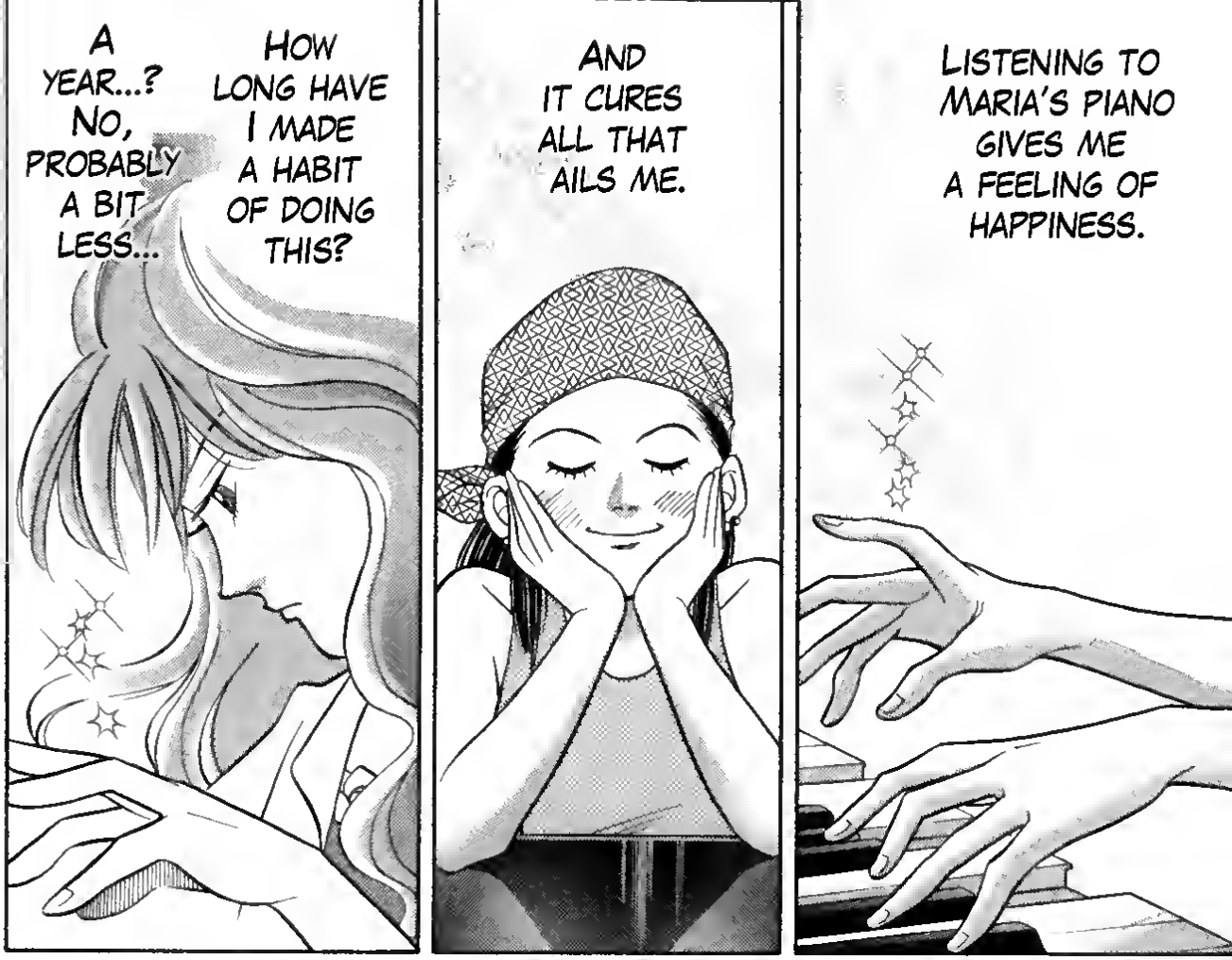

WILL I MAKE IT IN TIME?
IT'S ALREADY 8:30...

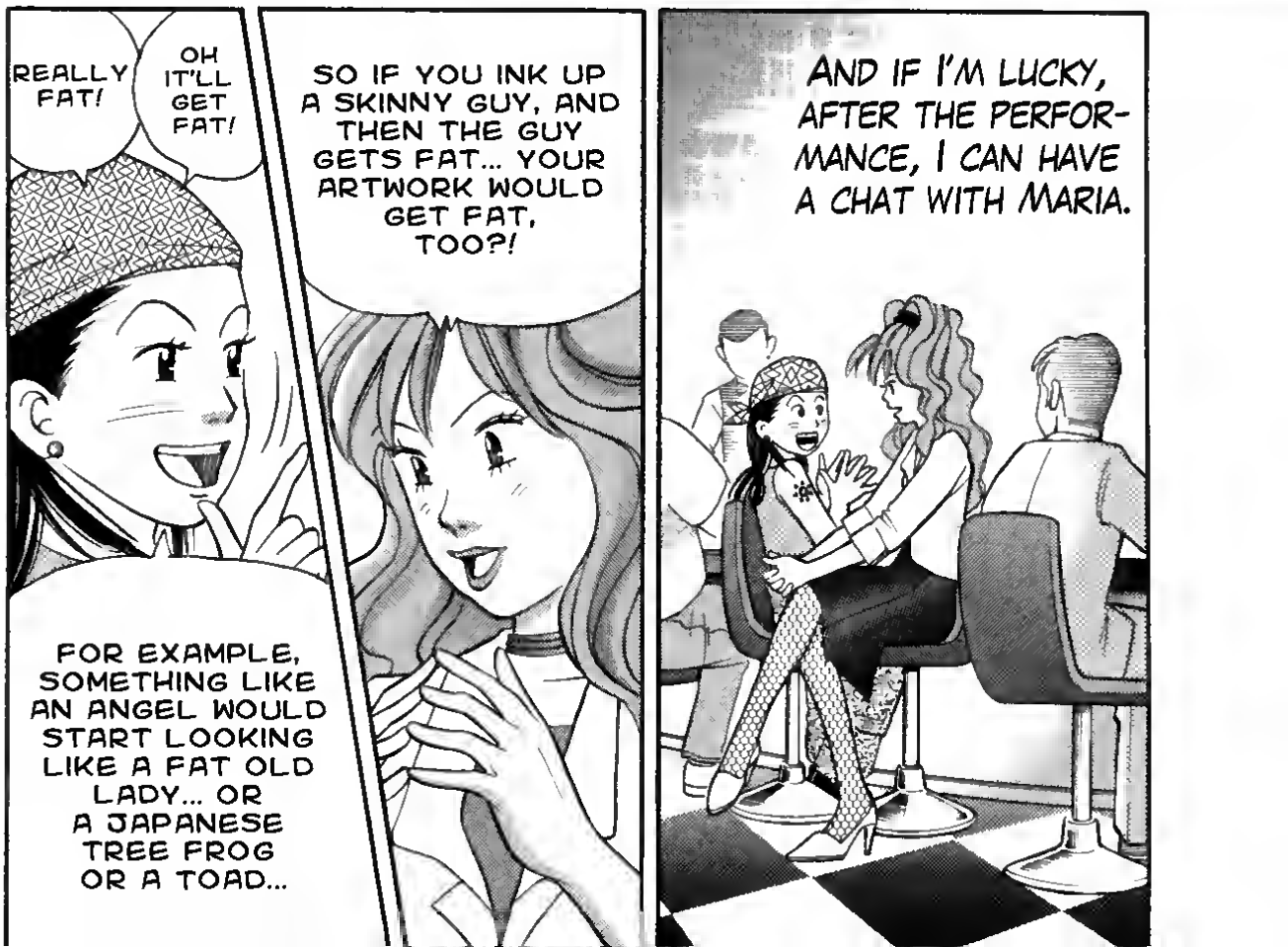
PUB
SUNDAY NIGHTS ARE THE REWARD I GIVE MYSELF FOR WORKING HARD ALL WEEK...

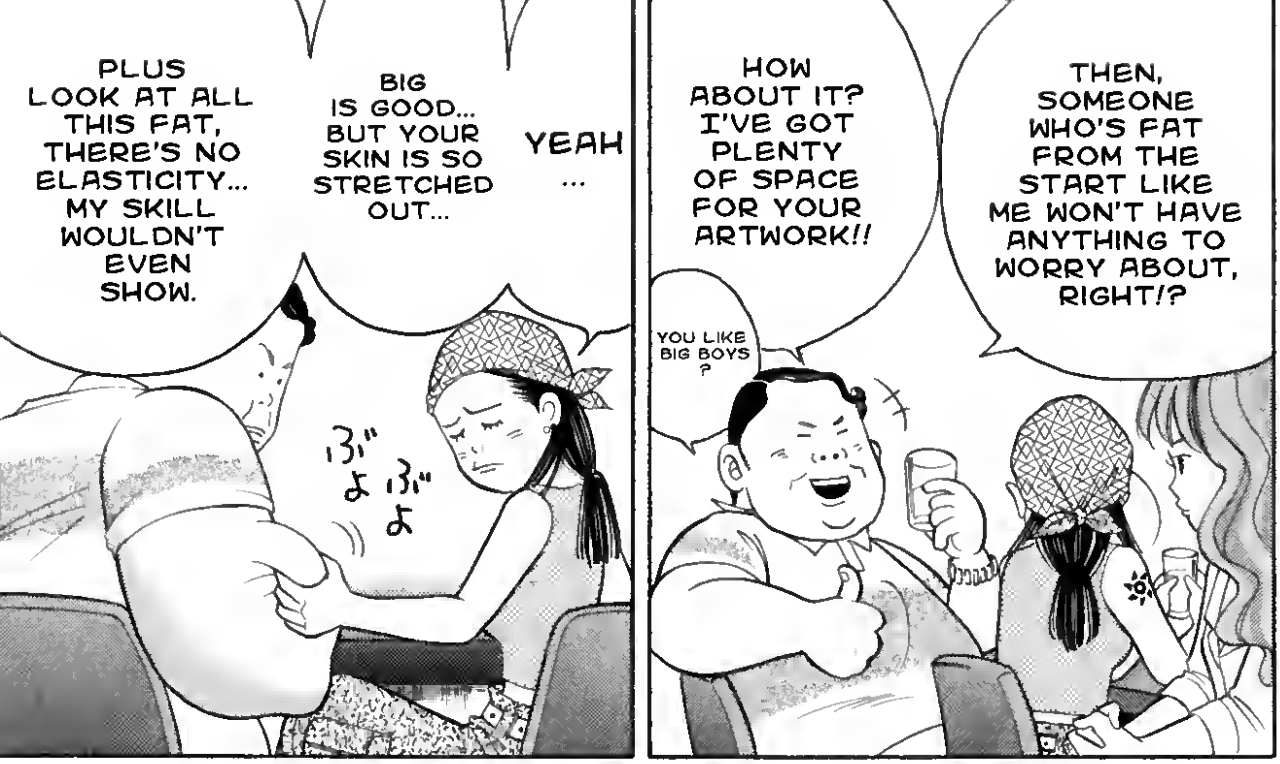

I GET TO LISTEN TO MARIA PLAY THE PIANO AT P-CLUB.

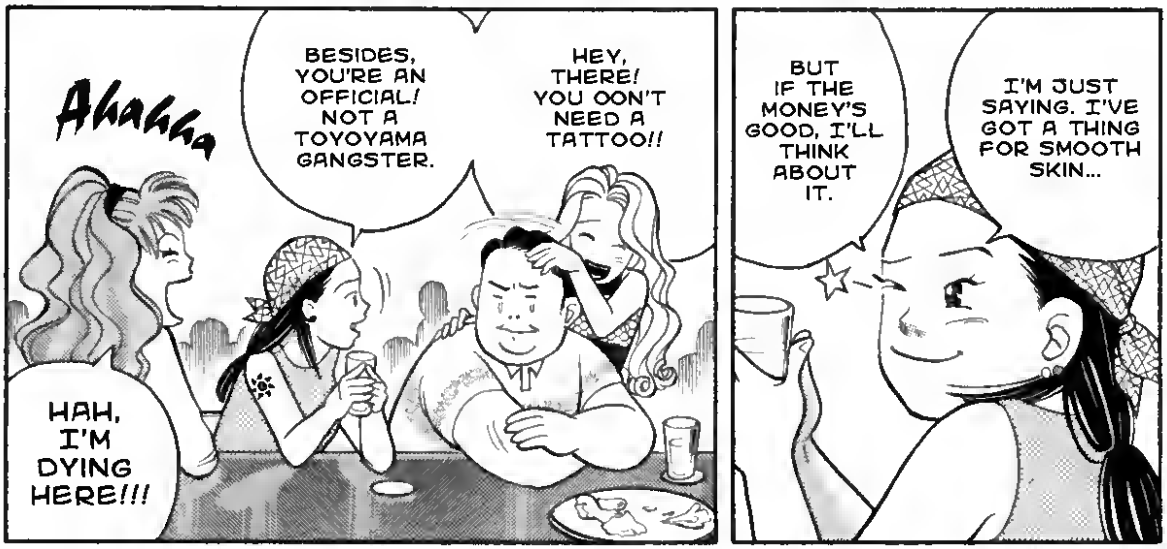


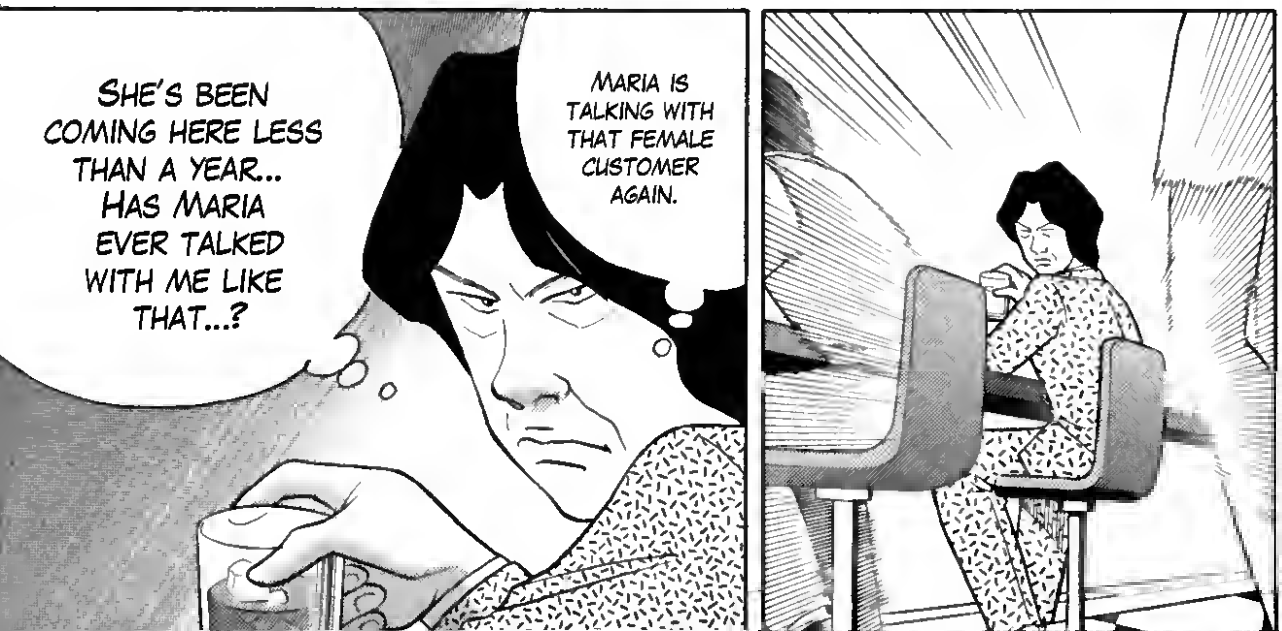
IT ISN'T A DATE, BUT IT IS MY ONE INDULGENCE OF THE WEEK!!!

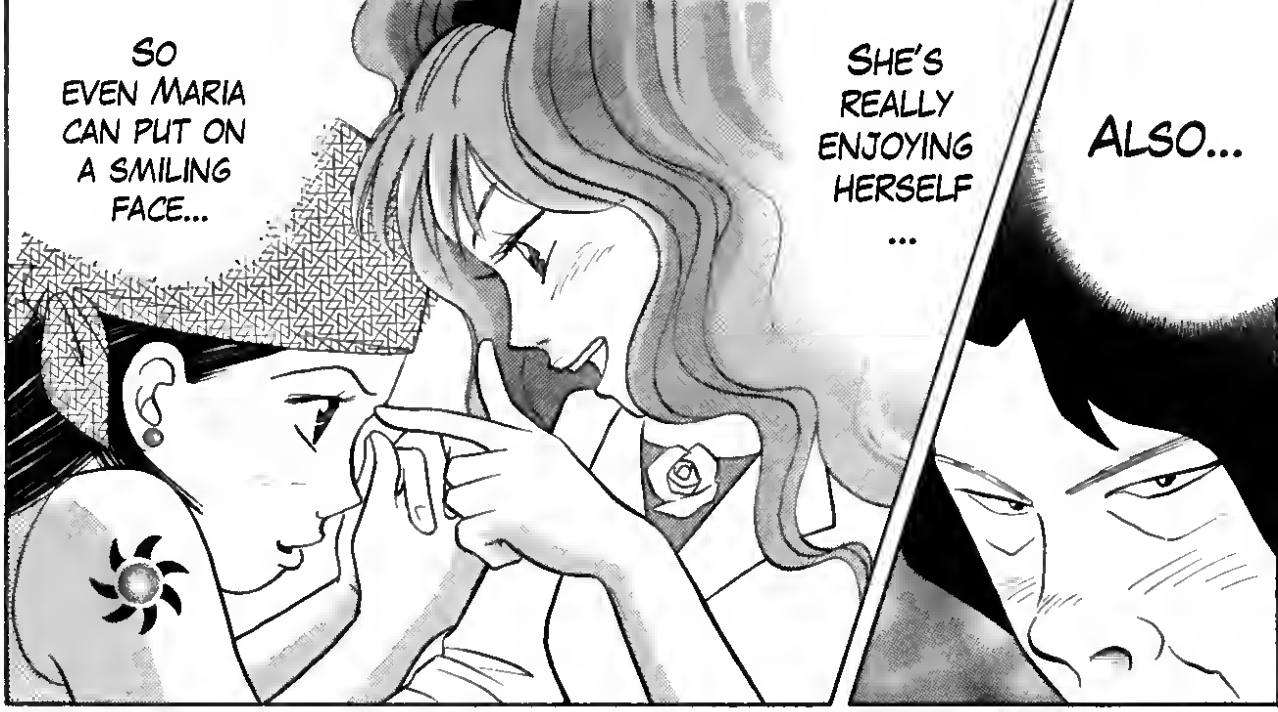

HOW LONG HAVE I MADE A HABIT OF DOING THIS?
A YEAR...? NO, PROBABLY A BIT LESS...
AND IT CURES ALL THAT AILS ME.
LISTENING TO MARIA'S PIANO GIVES ME A FEELING OF HAPPINESS.

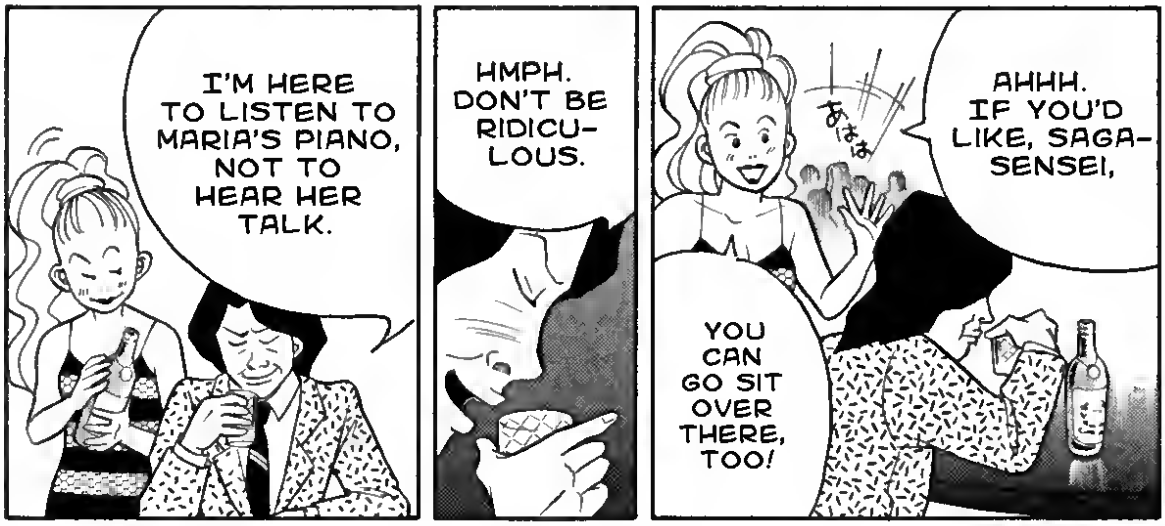

OH IT'LL GET FAT!
REALLY FAT!
SO IF YOU INK UP A SKINNY GUY, AND THEN THE GUY GETS FAT... YOUR ARTWORK WOULD GET FAT, TOO?!
AND IF I'M LUCKY, AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, I CAN HAVE A CHAT WITH MARIA.
FOR EXAMPLE, SOMETHING LIKE AN ANGEL WOULD START LOOKING LIKE A FAT OLD LADY... OR A JAPANESE TREE FROG OR A TOAD...


PLUS LOOK AT ALL THIS FAT, THERE'S NO ELASTICITY... MY SKILL WOULDN'T EVEN SHOW.
BIG IS GOOD... BUT YOUR SKIN IS SO STRETCHED OUT...
YEAH ...
13" よ 13" よ
HOW ABOUT IT? I'VE GOT PLENTY OF SPACE FOR YOUR ARTWORK!!
THEN, SOMEONE WHO'S FAT FROM THE START LIKE ME WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, RIGHT!?
YOU LIKE BIG BOYS ?

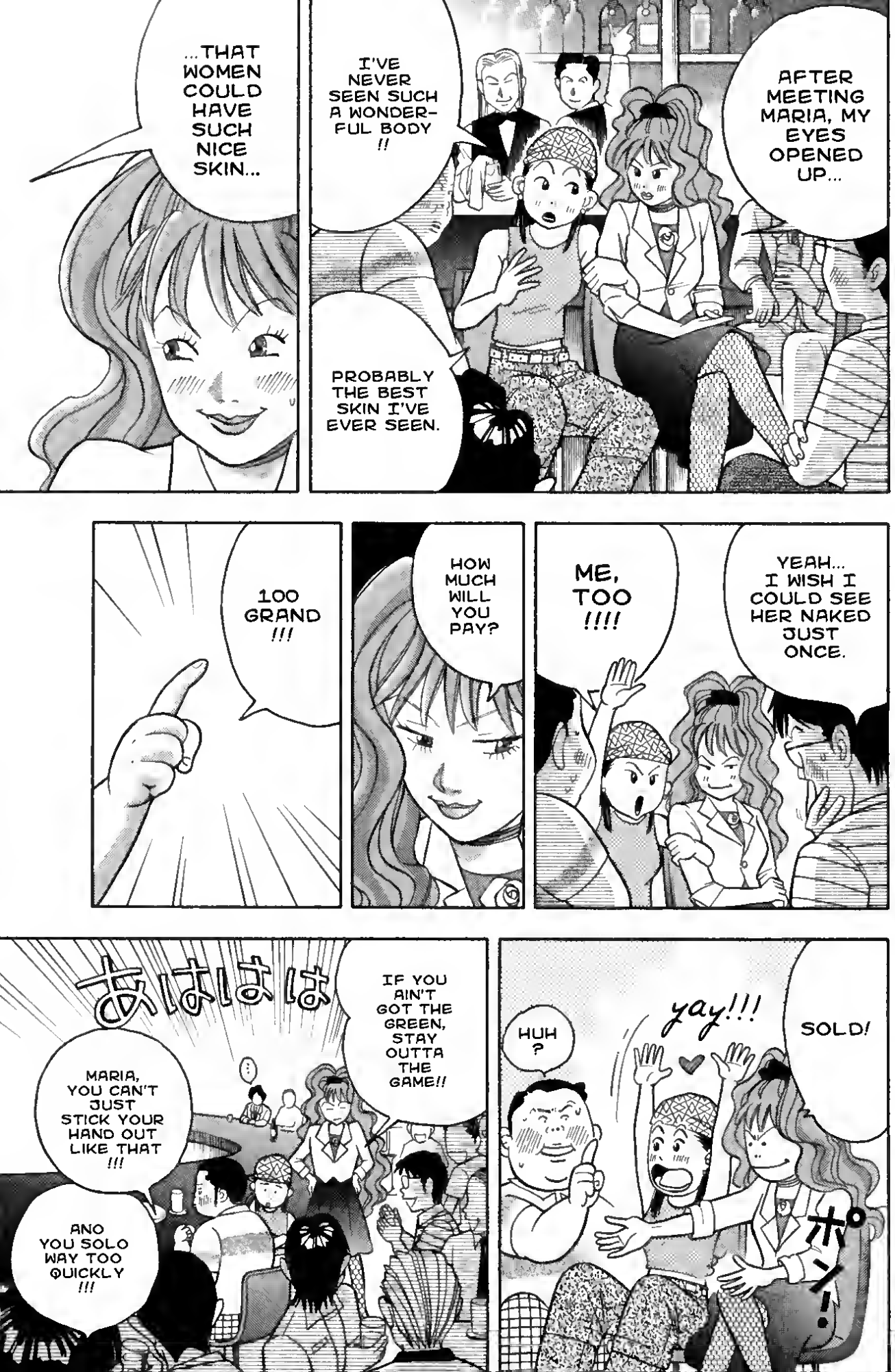

Ahahha
BESIDES, YOU'RE AN OFFICIAL! NOT A TOYOYAMA GANGSTER.
HEY, THERE! YOU OON'T NEED A TATTOO!!
HAH, I'M DYING HERE!!!
BUT IF THE MONEY'S GOOD, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
I'M JUST SAYING. I'VE GOT A THING FOR SMOOTH SKIN...


SHE'S BEEN COMING HERE LESS THAN A YEAR... HAS MARIA EVER TALKED WITH ME LIKE THAT...?
MARIA IS TALKING WITH THAT FEMALE CUSTOMER AGAIN.


SO EVEN MARIA CAN PUT ON A SMILING FACE...
SHE'S REALLY ENJOYING HERSELF ...
ALSO...

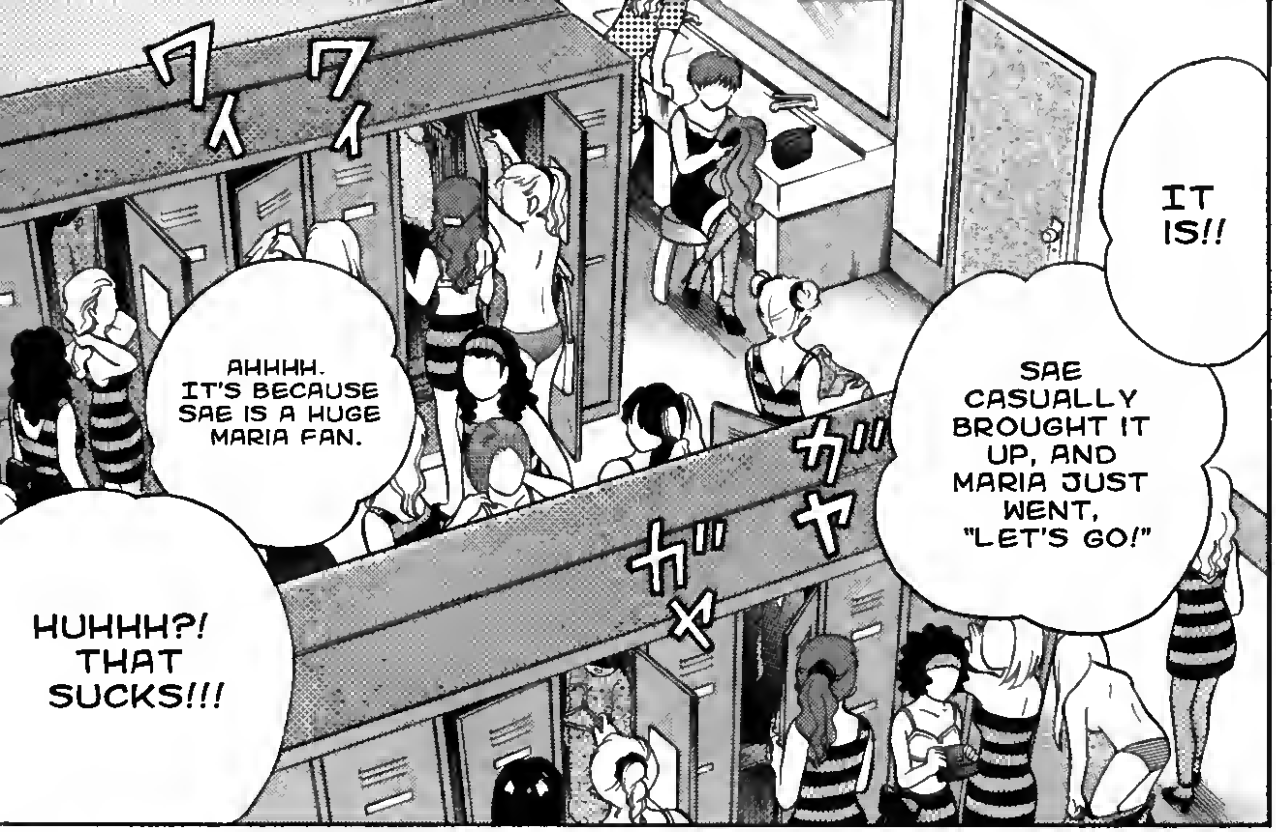

I'M HERE TO LISTEN TO MARIA'S PIANO, NOT TO HEAR HER TALK.
HMPH. DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS.
あはは
AHHH. IF YOU'D LIKE, SAGA-SENSEI,
YOU CAN GO SIT OVER THERE, TOO!

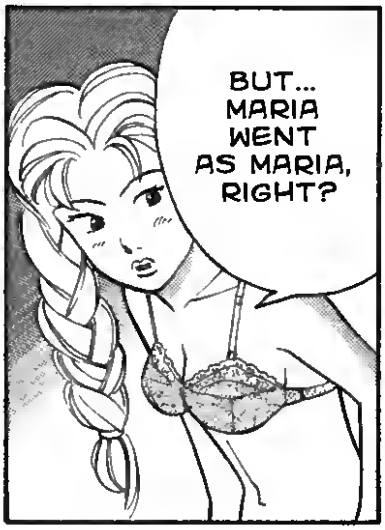
BUT!
FOR INKING, MALE BODIES ARE MUCH FIRMER, WHICH MAKES IT EASIER TO DRAW ON. ESPECIALLY YOUNG GANGSTERS!
I'VE BEEN IN THE TATTOO BUSINESS FOR A LONG TIME, BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN FEMALE SKIN...

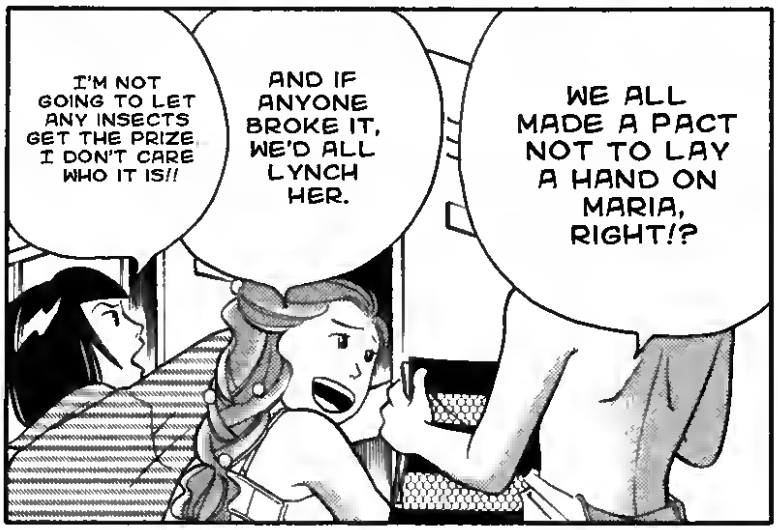

...THAT WOMEN COULD HAVE SUCH NICE SKIN...
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A WONDER-FUL BODY !!
AFTER MEETING MARIA, MY EYES OPENED UP...
PROBABLY THE BEST SKIN I'VE EVER SEEN.
100 GRAND !!!
HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY?
ME, TOO !!!!
YEAH... I WISH I COULD SEE HER NAKED JUST ONCE.
あはははは
MARIA, YOU CAN'T JUST STICK YOUR HAND OUT LIKE THAT !!!
IF YOU AIN'T GOT THE GREEN, STAY OUTTA THE GAME!!
ANO YOU SOLO WAY TOO QUICKLY !!!
HUH ?
yay!!!
SOLD!
ポン!

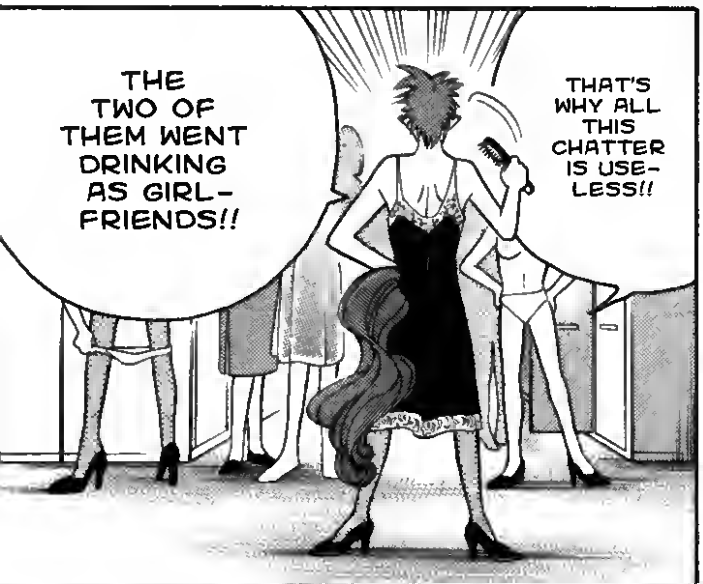
CLUB

MARIA AND SAE WENT OUT FOR DRINKS?
WHAT !?
Changing Room
P☆CLUB
ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME?
NO WAY! THAT'S SO STRANGE. MARIA GOING OUT DRINKING...


ワイワイ
AHHHH. IT'S BECAUSE SAE IS A HUGE MARIA FAN.
HUHHH?! THAT SUCKS!!!
SAE CASUALLY BROUGHT IT UP, AND MARIA JUST WENT, "LET'S GO!"
IT IS!!
カツ
カツ
カツ


BUT... MARIA WENT AS MARIA, RIGHT?


I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANY INSECTS GET THE PRIZE I DON'T CARE WHO IT IS!!
AND IF ANYONE BROKE IT, WE'D ALL LYNCH HER.
WE ALL MADE A PACT NOT TO LAY A HAND ON MARIA, RIGHT!?

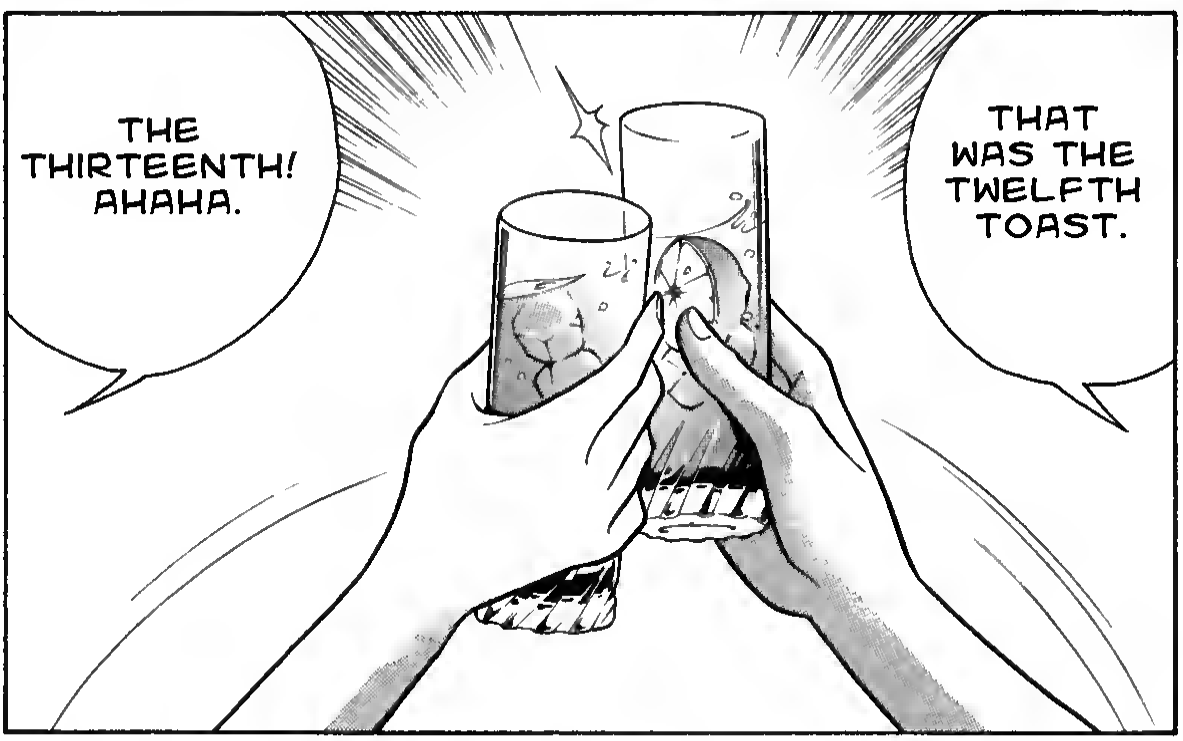

THE TWO OF THEM WENT DRINKING AS GIRL-FRIENDS!!
THAT'S WHY ALL THIS CHATTER IS USE-LESS!!

SAE BELIEVES MARIA IS A GIRL.
THAT'S RIGHT!

Specialties
CHEERS !!
YAY!
THAT WAS THE TWELFTH TOAST.
THE THIRTEENTH! AHAHA.

日曜の夜は‥‥① END

Chapter 74
Sunday Night ②
CHEERS !!
YAY!

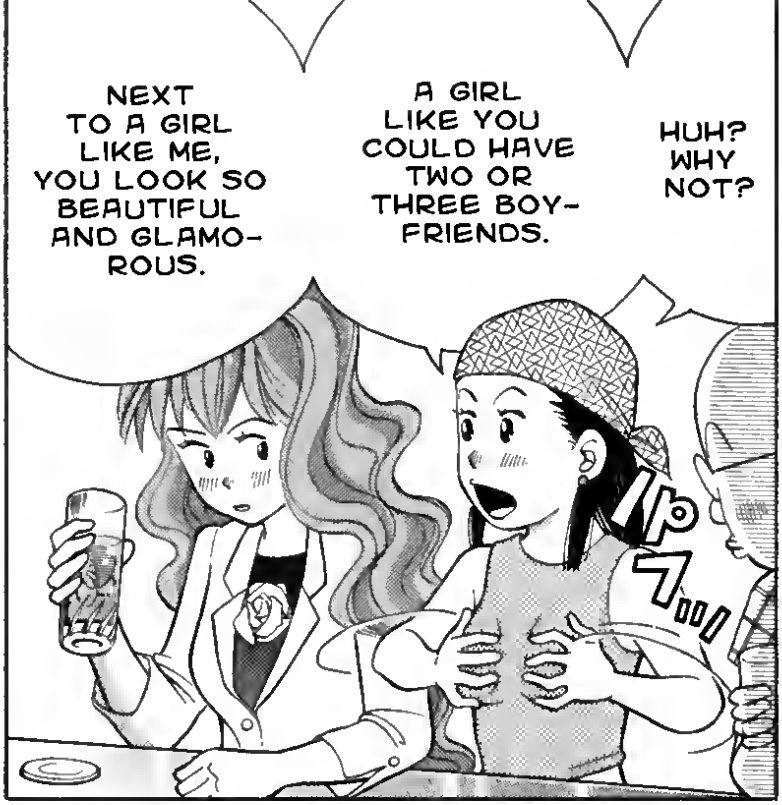

THE THIRTEENTH! AHAHA.
THAT WAS THE TWELFTH TOAST.

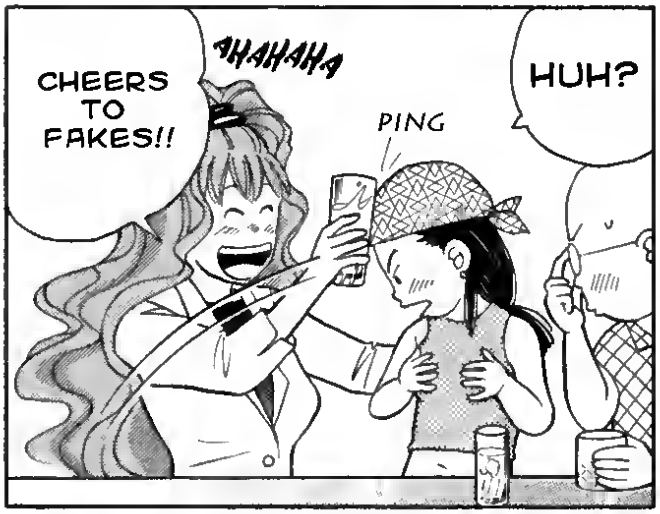
AUSTRIA?

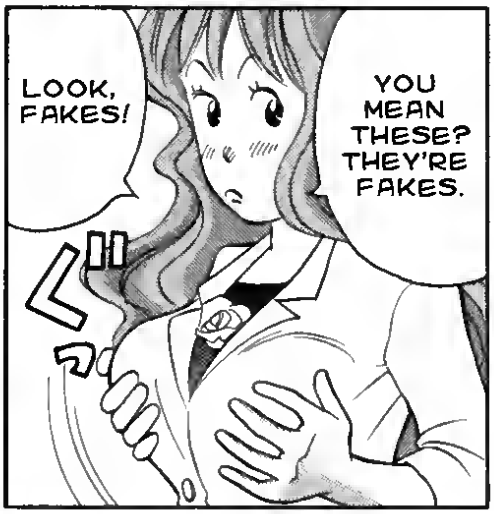
HE TOLD ME, "I CAN STAY A WHILE," BUT THEN HE SAID HE REMEMBERED SOMETHING...
YEAH...
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS...

JUST STAYED ONE NIGHT, AND WENT BACK TO STUDYING ABROAD?
SO THEN, HE...

YEAH!
HE SHOULD HAVE JUST FORGOT ABOUT IT...
HUH ?
BOY-FRIEND...? AMAMIYA ?!
NOT CHEATING ON YOU WITH SOME BLOND-HAIRED BIMBOS.
AND A TOAST TO YOUR BOY-FRIEND
THE FOUR-TEENTH TOAST!
THEN, CHEERS TO POOR LITTLE MARIA.
SINCE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT A MALE FRIEND, I JUST ASSUMED IT WAS A LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP.
HUH? I'M WRONG?
AHAHA, AHAHA! CUT IT OUT!! THAT'S SICK!!


NEXT TO A GIRL LIKE ME, YOU LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL AND GLAMOROUS.
A GIRL LIKE YOU COULD HAVE TWO OR THREE BOYFRIENDS.
HUH? WHY NOT?
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE A BOYFRIEND !!!!
AHHH... STOP! STOP...!
GAHAHA


CHEERS TO FAKES!!
AHAHAHA
PING
HUH?

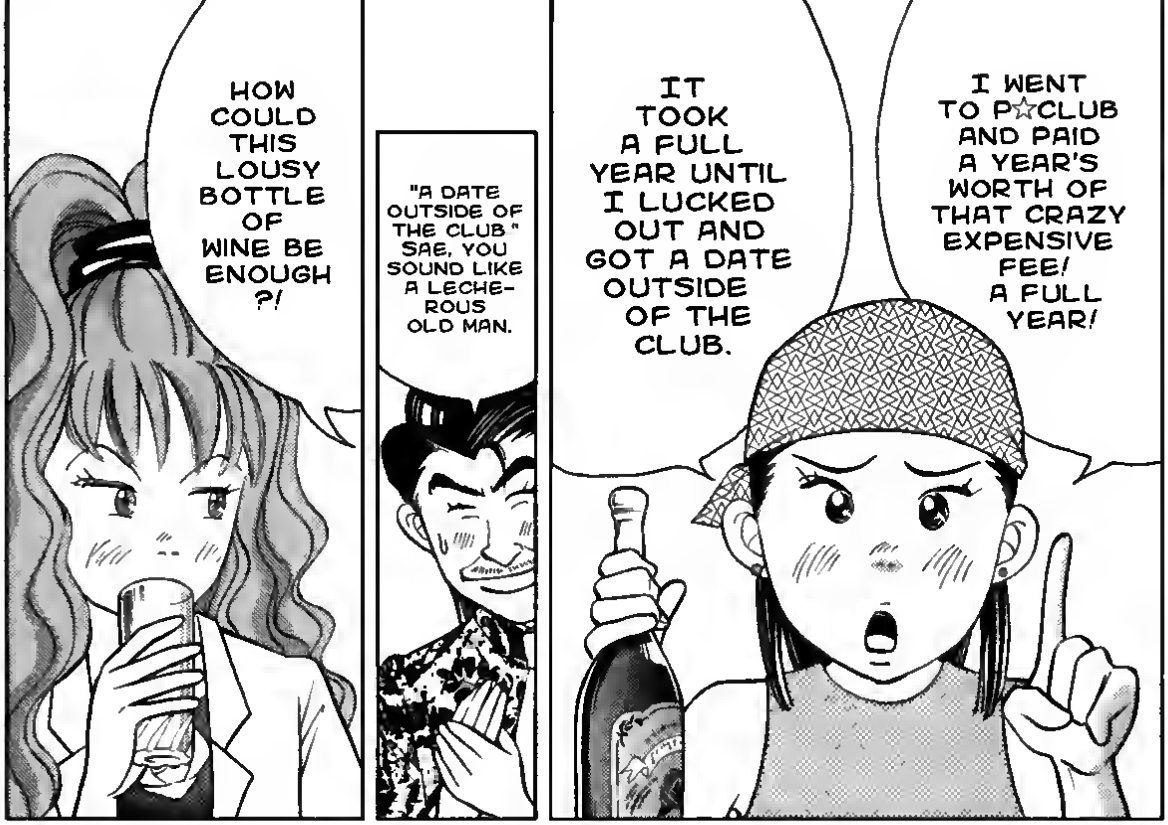

LOOK, FAKES!
YOU MEAN THESE? THEY'RE FAKES.

HUH?
WHERE?
HEY!
CHECK OUT THE HOTTIE OVER THERE.

FINE. FINE. I'LL PLAY ALONG WITH THIS AND ANY OTHER STORIES YOU COME UP WITH!!
AHAHA, YOU GOT ME MARIA.
THOSE TWO DRINKING AT THE BAR.
ANYWAY, HERE'S TO YOUR BEAUTY.
AHAHA. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
ACCEPT THIS AS A GESTURE OF MY GOOD-WILL.
NO, NO. SHE'S RIGHT. YOU ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL.

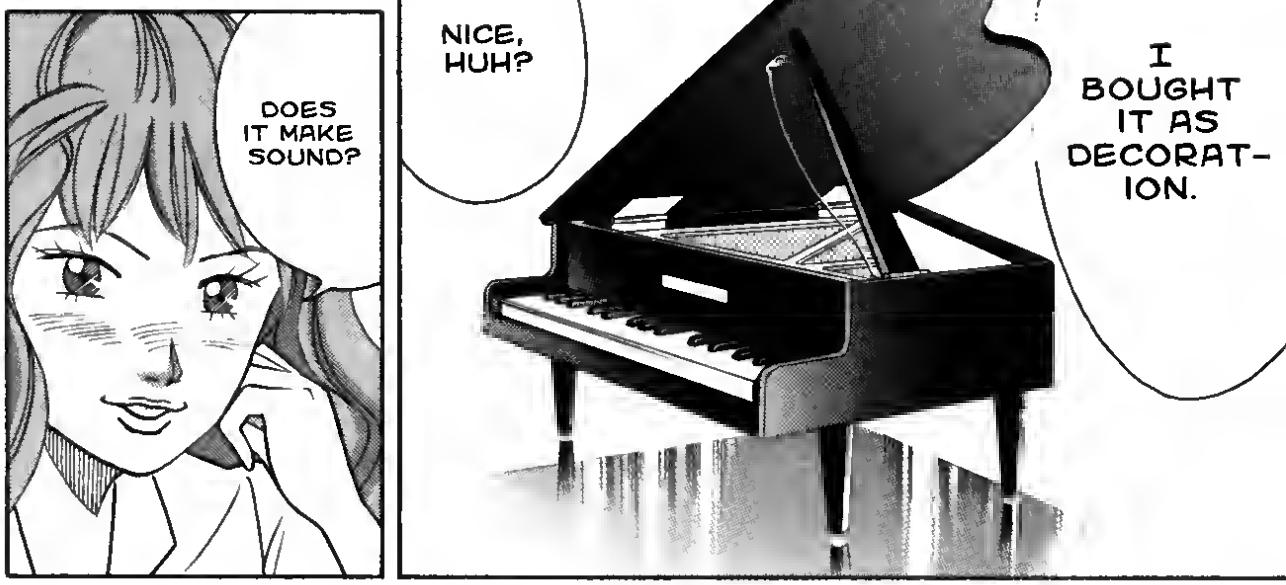
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D BE SUCH A BEAUTY ...
I'D HEARD THE RUMORS.
CORRECT ?
YOU MUST BE P☆CLUB'S HEADLINE PIANIST, MARIA.
IS THE HOST AND BAR-TENDER
THIS HERE, AS YOU CAN SEE...
OH! RIGHT, RIGHT.
HEY SAE, INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR FRIEND.
WHAT HE SAID.
OH?! REALLY ?!
BAR MASTER, HIROSE-GAWA!!

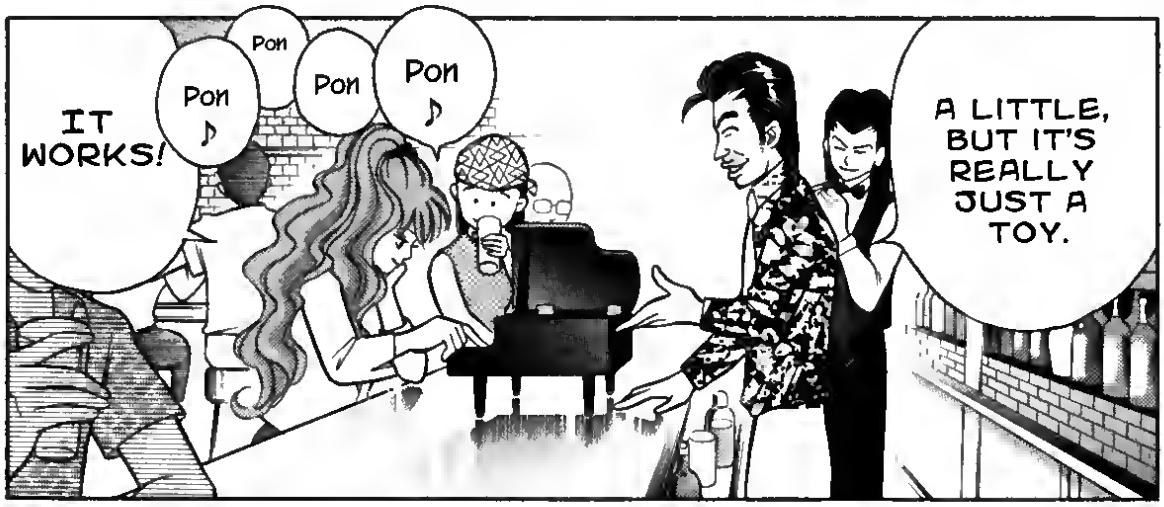
THE PLACE IS FULL OF YAKUZA, AND THERE ARE STRIPPERS EVERYWHERE. NOT TO MENTION THE ENTRANCE FEE IS CRAZY EXPEN-SIVE.
AHAHA... YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT COMING.
I'VE BEEN THINK-ING OF GOING TO SEE YOU LIVE,
BUT P-CLUB IS ALWAYS CLOSED ON MY DAYS OFF... SO I CAN NEVER MAKE IT.
WOW ...
WHAT A WOMAN!
I'VE GOT TO GET WITH HER.
YOU DON'T JUST "MAKE HER ACQUAINTANCE" THAT EASILY!
GUESS AGAIN!
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE!
!?
swipe


I WENT TO P☆CLUB AND PAID A YEAR'S WORTH OF THAT CRAZY EXPENSIVE FEE! A FULL YEAR!
IT TOOK A FULL YEAR UNTIL I LUCKED OUT AND GOT A DATE OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB.
"A DATE OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB." SAE, YOU SOUND LIKE A LECHEROUS OLD MAN.
HOW COULD THIS LOUSY BOTTLE OF WINE BE ENOUGH?!

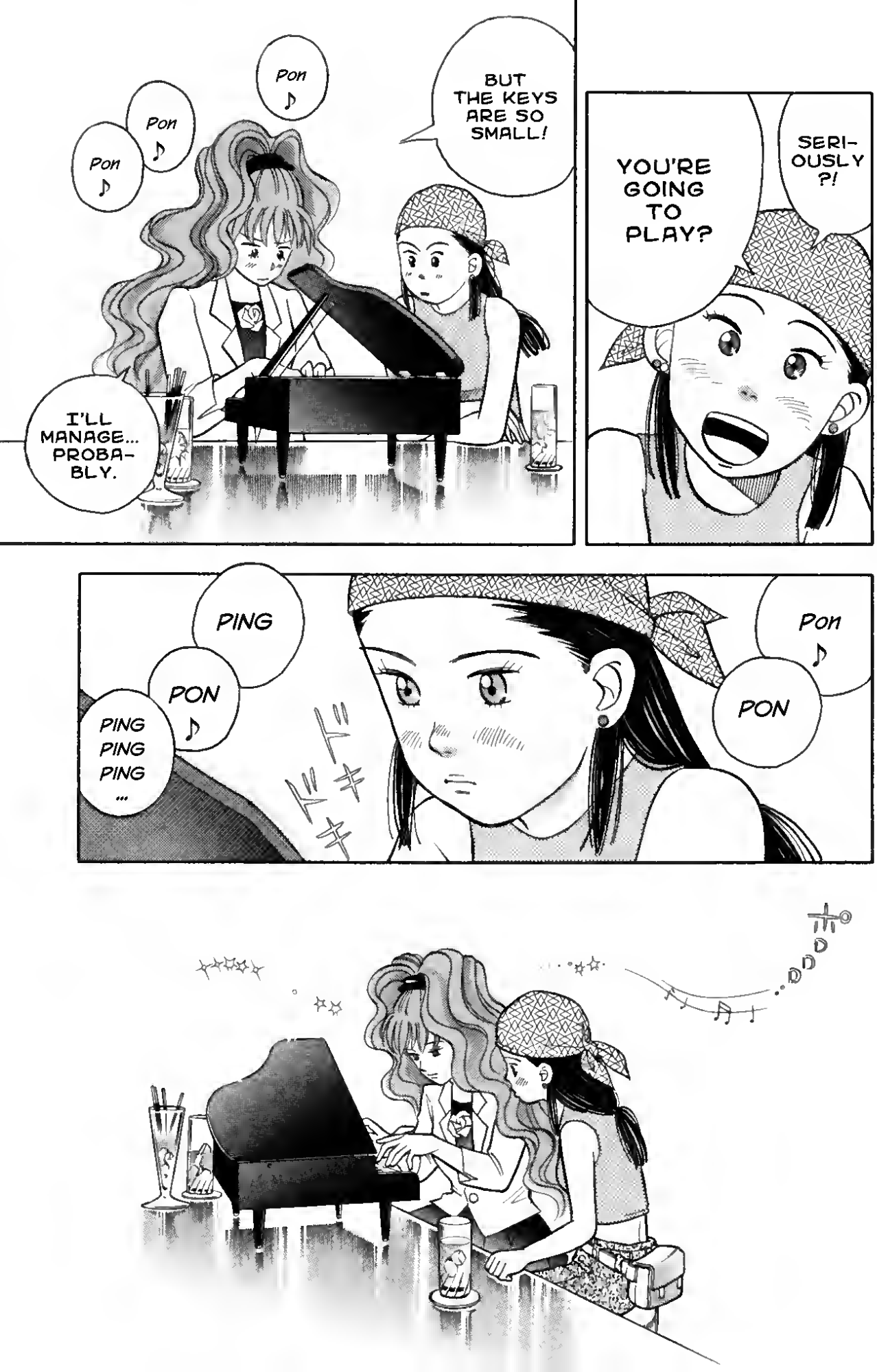
SAE, YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK BAD.
THAT'S MARIA FROM P-CLUB —THE PAINIST.
YOU DON'T MEAN *THAT* MARIA?!

I REALLY WANT TO HEAR YOUR PIANO,
AH, IT'S TOO BAD.
I HEARD SHE WAS HOT...
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE A MODEL.
BUT ALL I HAVE IS THAT TOY PIANO.
AWWW. IT'S SO CUTE.

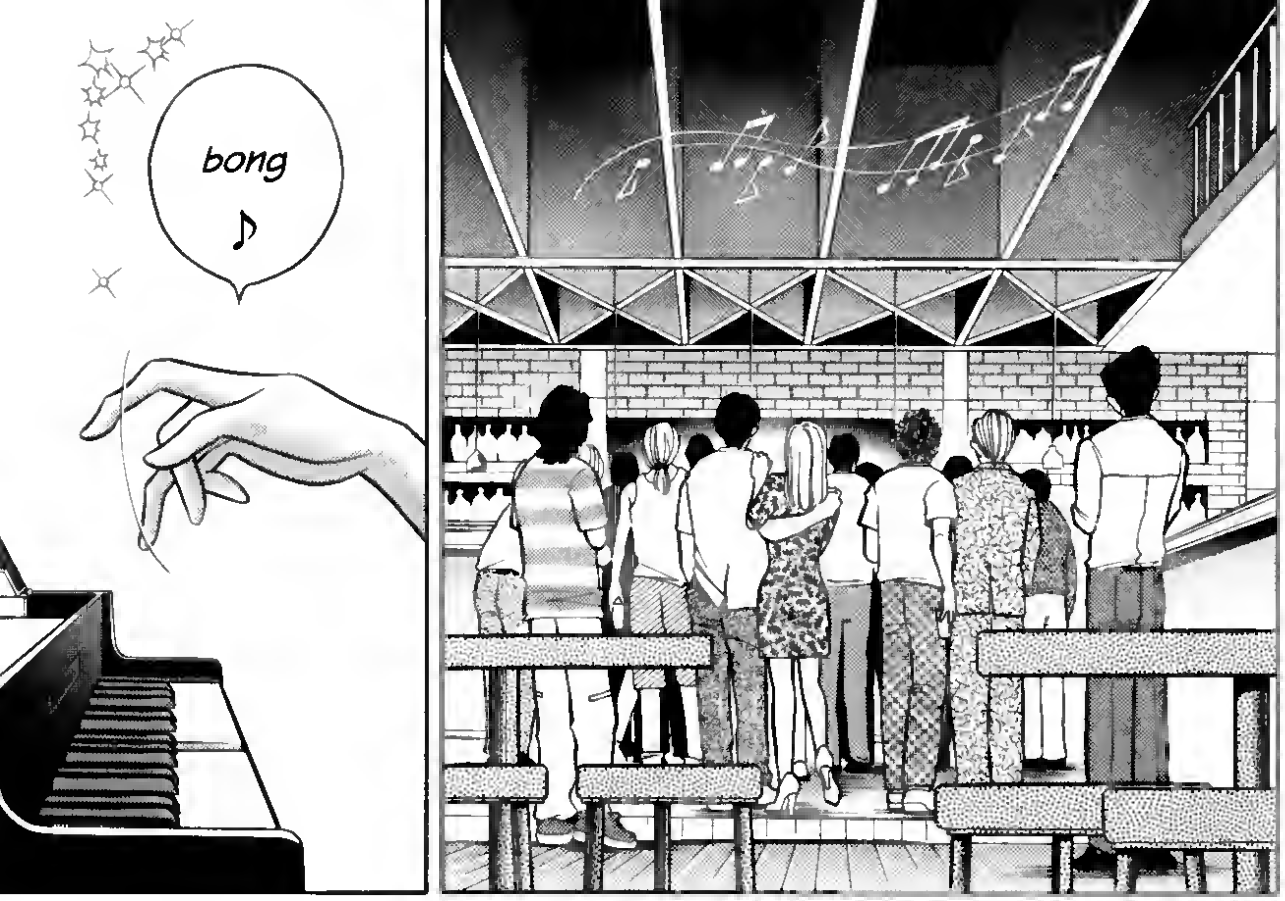

DOES IT MAKE SOUND?
NICE, HUH?
I BOUGHT IT AS DECORAT-ION.

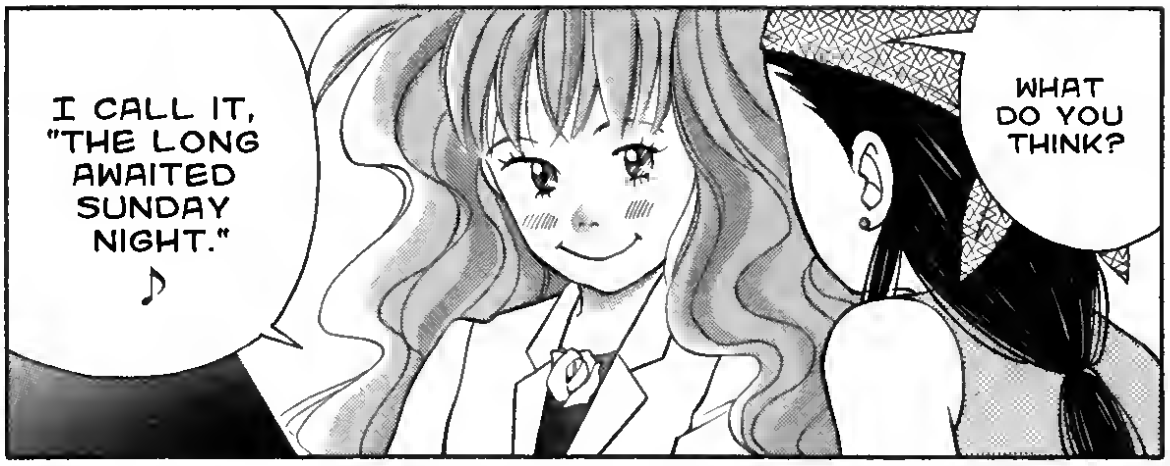

IT WORKS!
Pon
Pon
Pon
Pon
♪
♪
A LITTLE, BUT IT'S REALLY JUST A TOY.

THEN, HERE'S A SONG FOR MY DEAR SAE...
ﾊﾟﾀ
?


Pon ♪
Pon ♪
Pon ♪
BUT THE KEYS ARE SO SMALL!
I'LL MANAGE... PROBA-BLY.
YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY?
SERI-OUSLY ?!
PING
PON ♪
PING PING PING ...
PON
Pon ♪

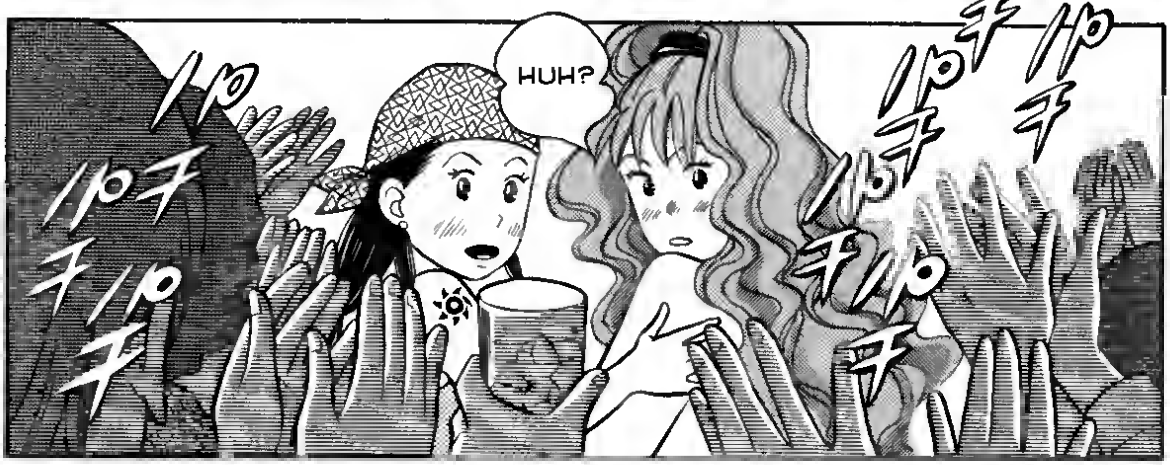
HEY, CUT THE SPEAK-ERS.

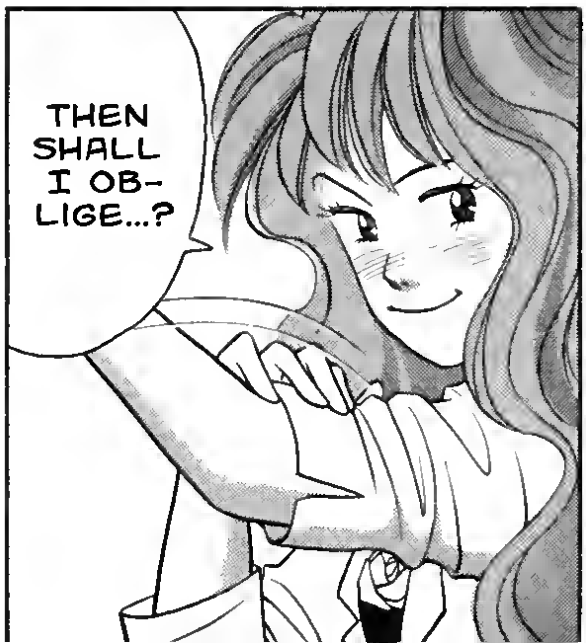

bong
♪


I CALL IT, "THE LONG AWAITED SUNDAY NIGHT."
♪
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT—

ワアア
IT'S GREAT, MARIA!
THANK YOU SO MUCH. I LOVED IT!!

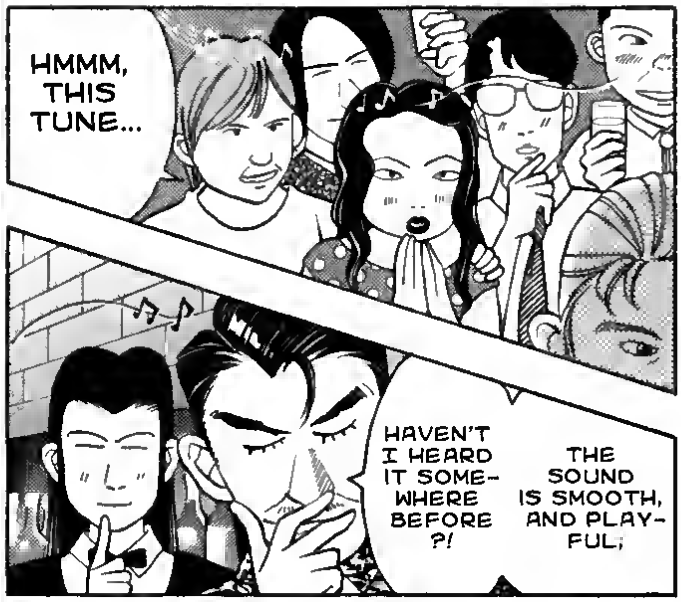

HUH?
パチパチパチパチ
パチパチパチパチ


THEN SHALL I OB-LIGE...?

ONE MORE, PLEASE!
ENCORE, ENCORE!

Specialties
de maîtrise

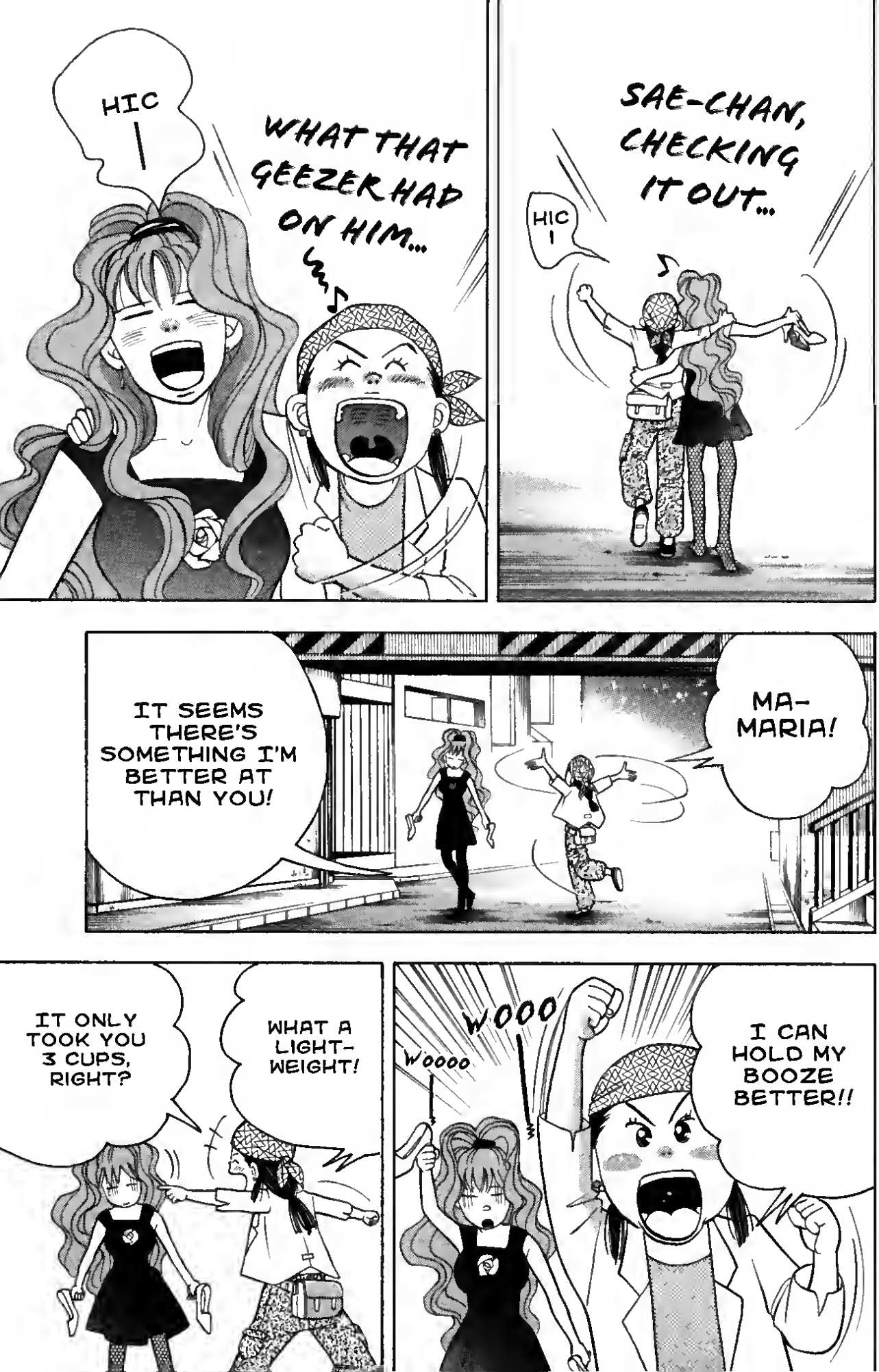
ONE MORE PIECE ...


HMMM, THIS TUNE...
HAVEN'T I HEARD IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE?!
THE SOUND IS SMOOTH, AND PLAYFUL;

TAN-

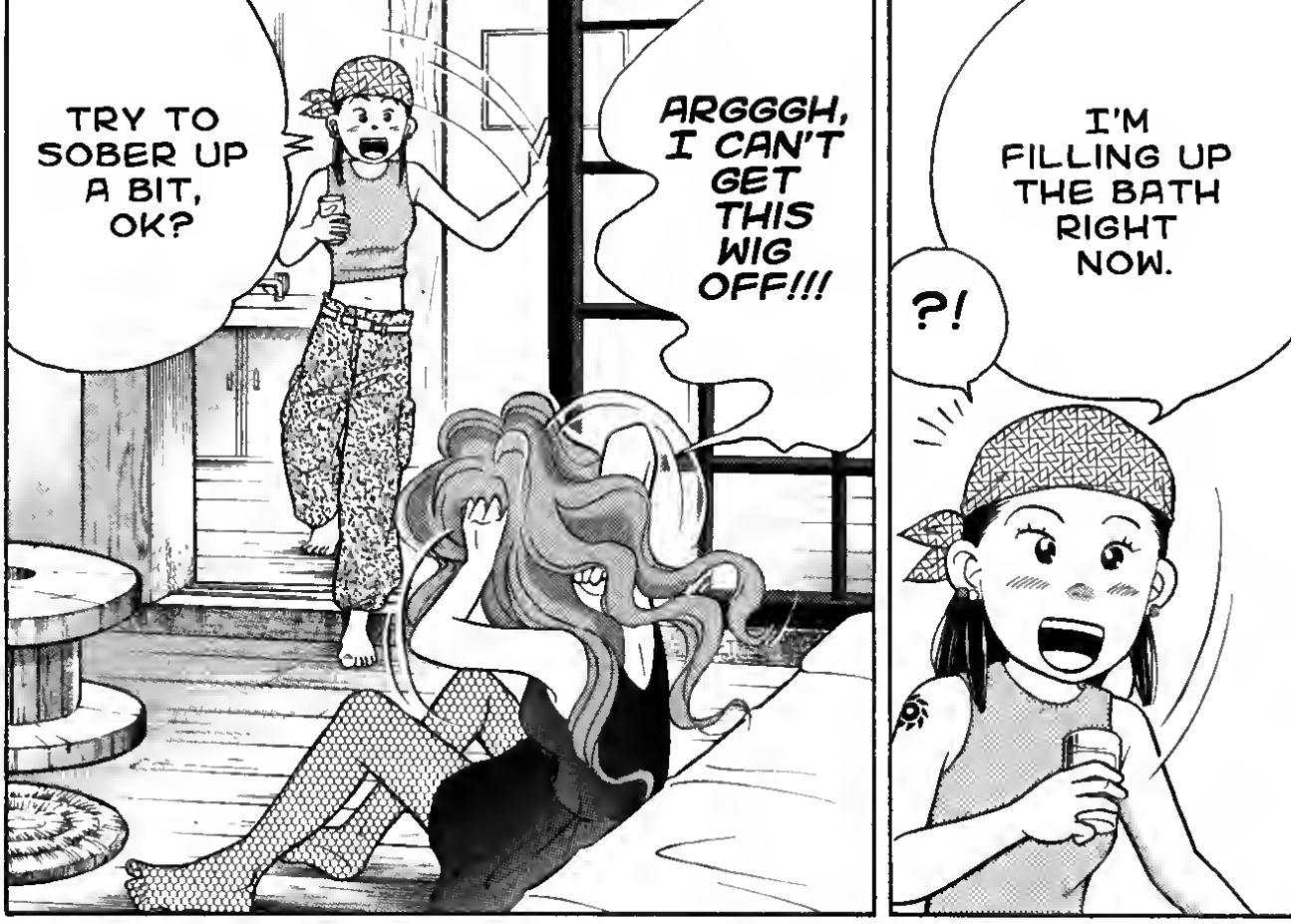
BINGO!
TANTAN TANUKI !!!

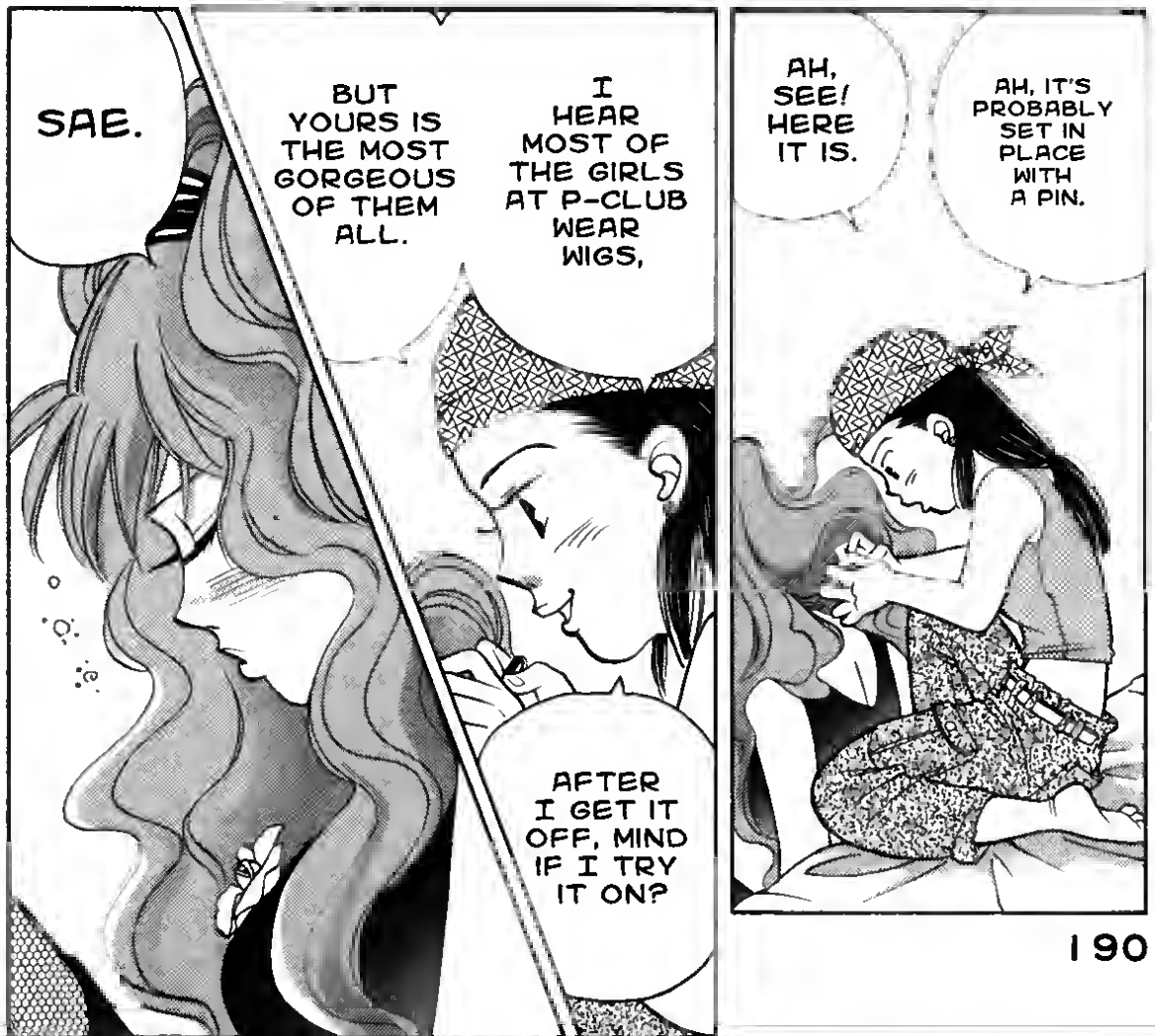
THE TAAAAA TAAAA TANUKI'S BAAAAALLS...
SWING SWING SWING WITHOUT ANY WIND.
?!

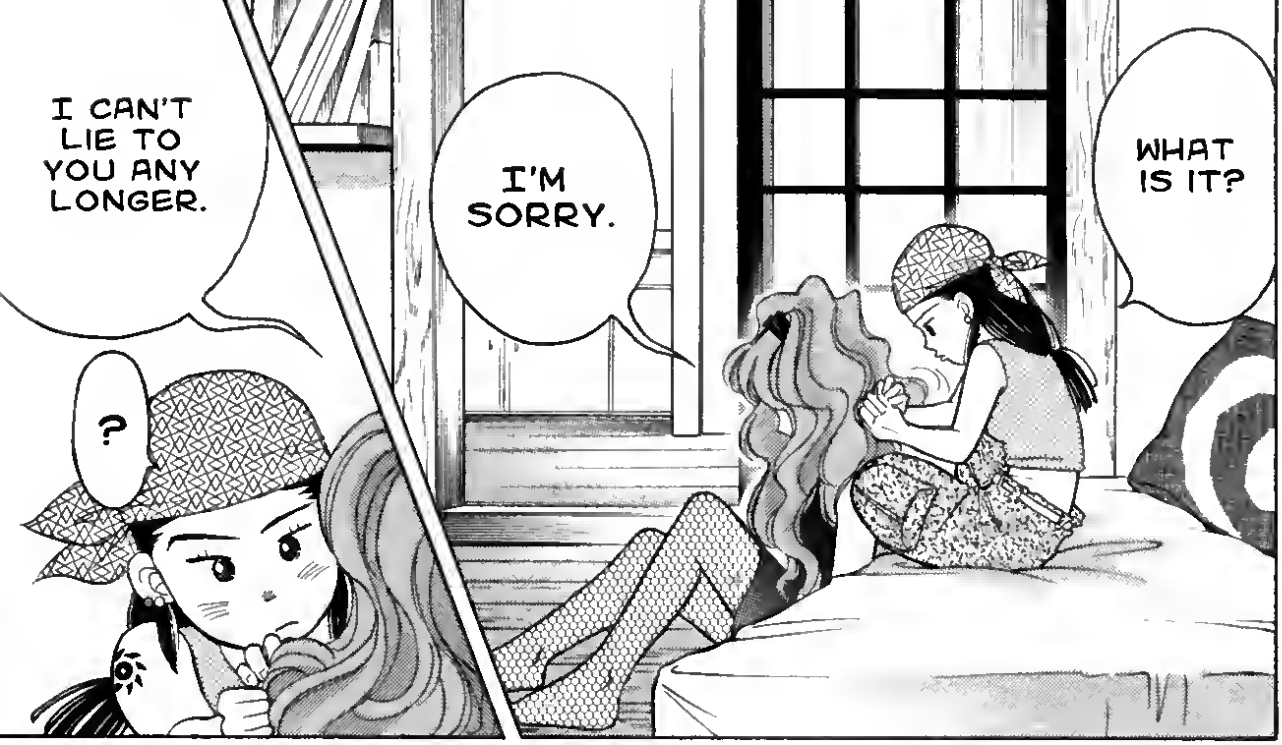

HIC
WHAT THAT GEEZER HAD ON HIM...
SAE-CHAN, CHECKING IT OUT...
HIC
IT SEEMS THERE'S SOMETHING I'M BETTER AT THAN YOU!
MA-MARIA!
IT ONLY TOOK YOU 3 CUPS, RIGHT?
WHAT A LIGHT-WEIGHT!
WOOO
WOOOO
I CAN HOLD MY BOOZE BETTER!!

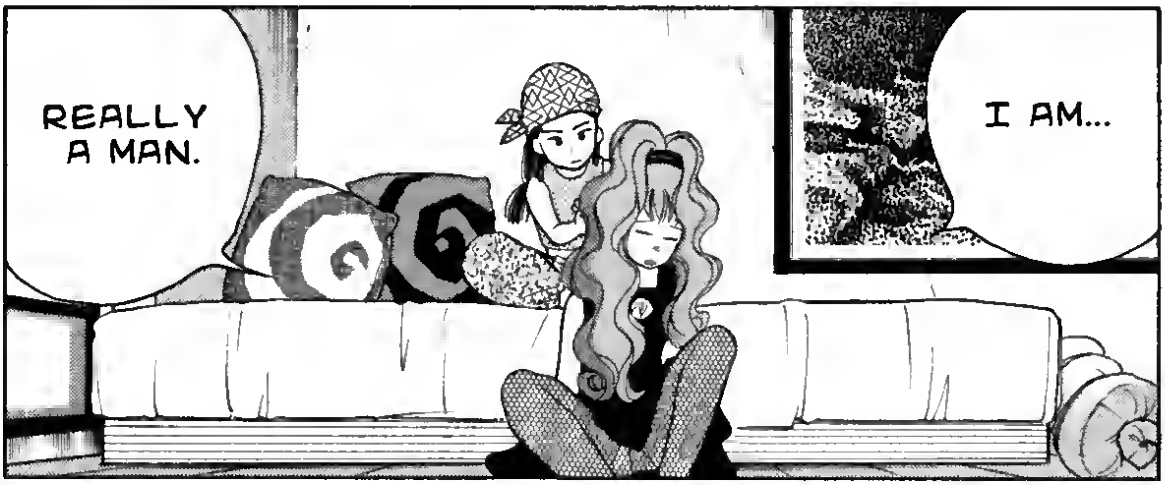
I CAN'T TAKE ANO-THER STEP.
I GOTTA TAKE OF THE WIG AND BREASTS !!
AHAHA. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
NOT HERE! IF YOU STAY HERE SOME SHADY GUYS MIGHT COME OVER AND HARASS YOU.
AHHH, NO MORE.
JUST LEAVE ME HERE.
LOOK. MY HOUSE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! YOU CAN CRASH THERE.
YOU CAN FIX YOUR WIG AND YOUR BRA.
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT ONCE YOU'RE AT MY PLACE.
BESIDES, I HAVE A BATH.
A BATH ?!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO SOAK IN A NICE, COMFORT-ABLE BATH?!
SINCE YOU ONLY HAVE A SHOWER!

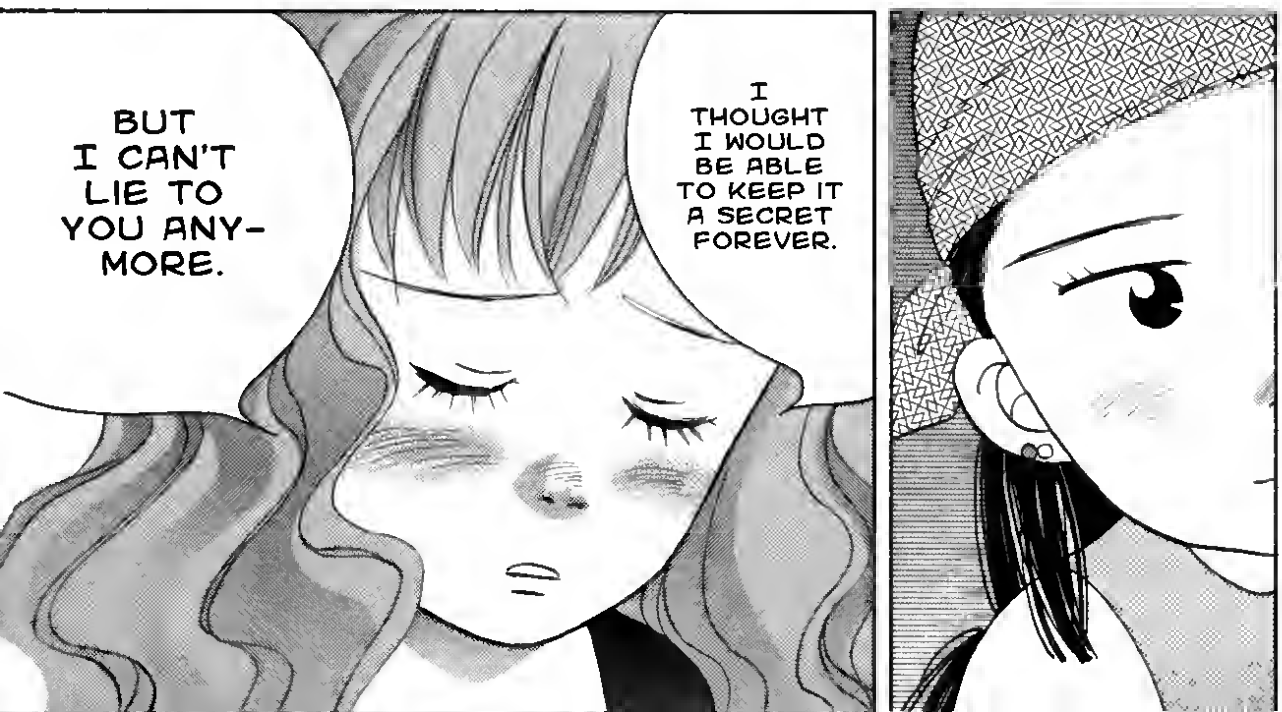
I MIGHT HAVE SAID THAT ...
A BATH ?!
有井
MARIA, ARE YOU, OK?

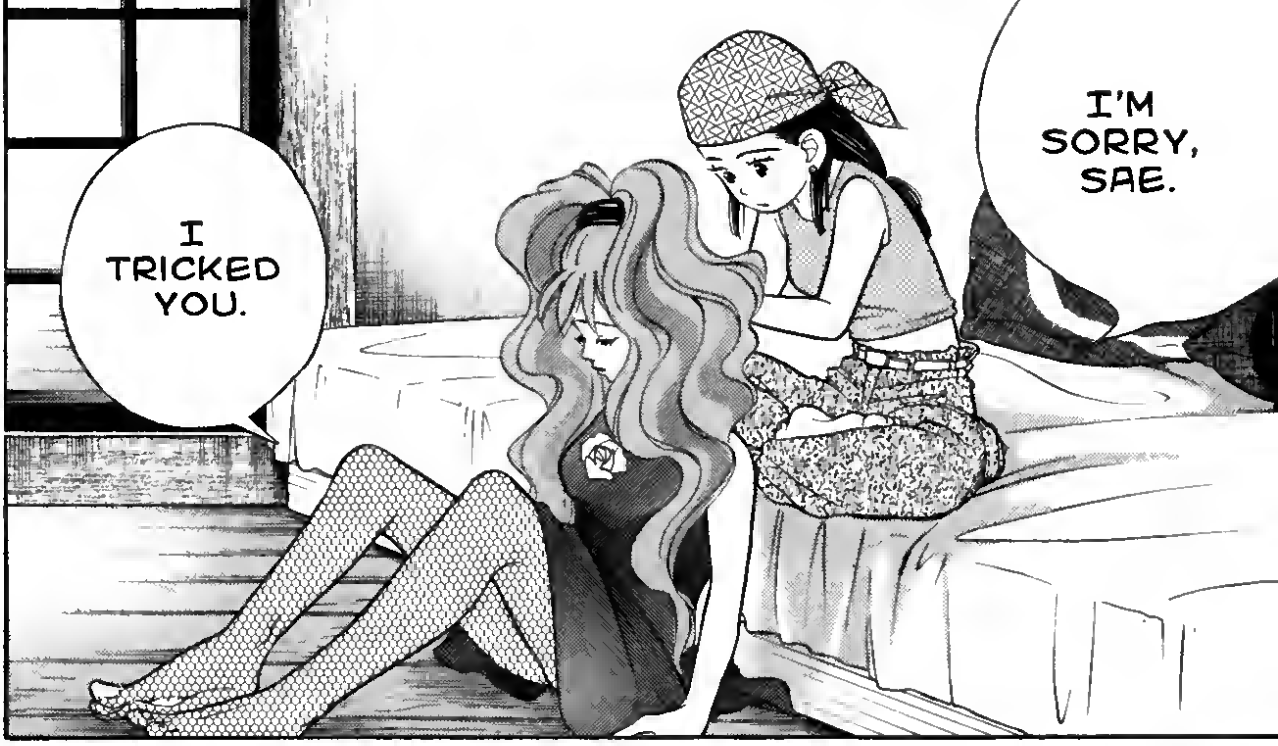

TRY TO SOBER UP A BIT, OK?
ARGGGH, I CAN'T GET THIS WIG OFF!!!
I'M FILLING UP THE BATH RIGHT NOW.
?!

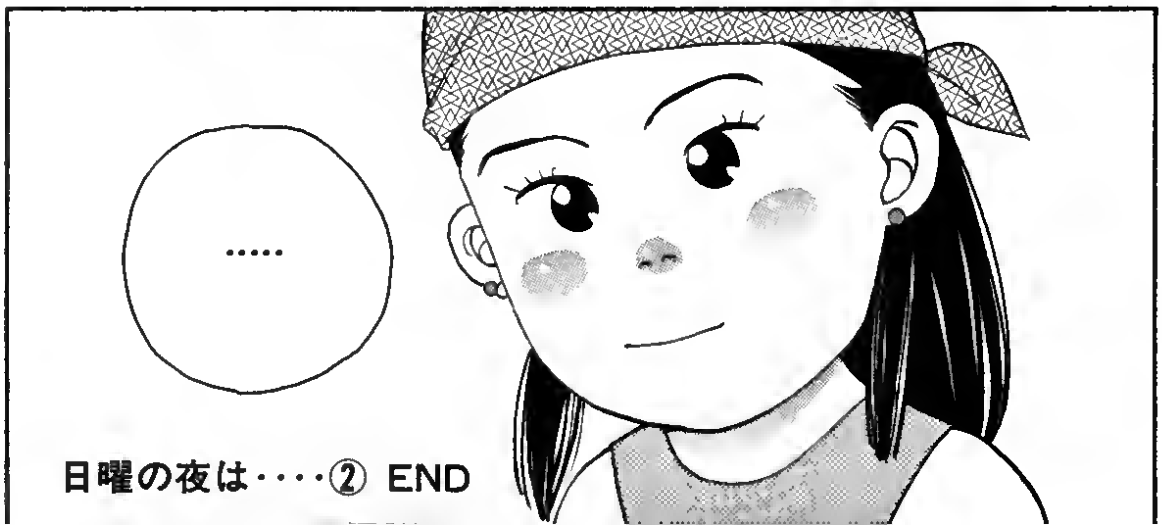

SAE.
BUT YOURS IS THE MOST GORGEOUS OF THEM ALL.
I HEAR MOST OF THE GIRLS AT P-CLUB WEAR WIGS,
AFTER I GET IT OFF, MIND IF I TRY IT ON?
AH, SEE! HERE IT IS.
AH, IT'S PROBABLY SET IN PLACE WITH A PIN.


I CAN'T LIE TO YOU ANY LONGER.
?
I'M SORRY.
WHAT IS IT?


REALLY A MAN.
I AM...


BUT I CAN'T LIE TO YOU ANY-MORE.
I THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP IT A SECRET FOREVER.

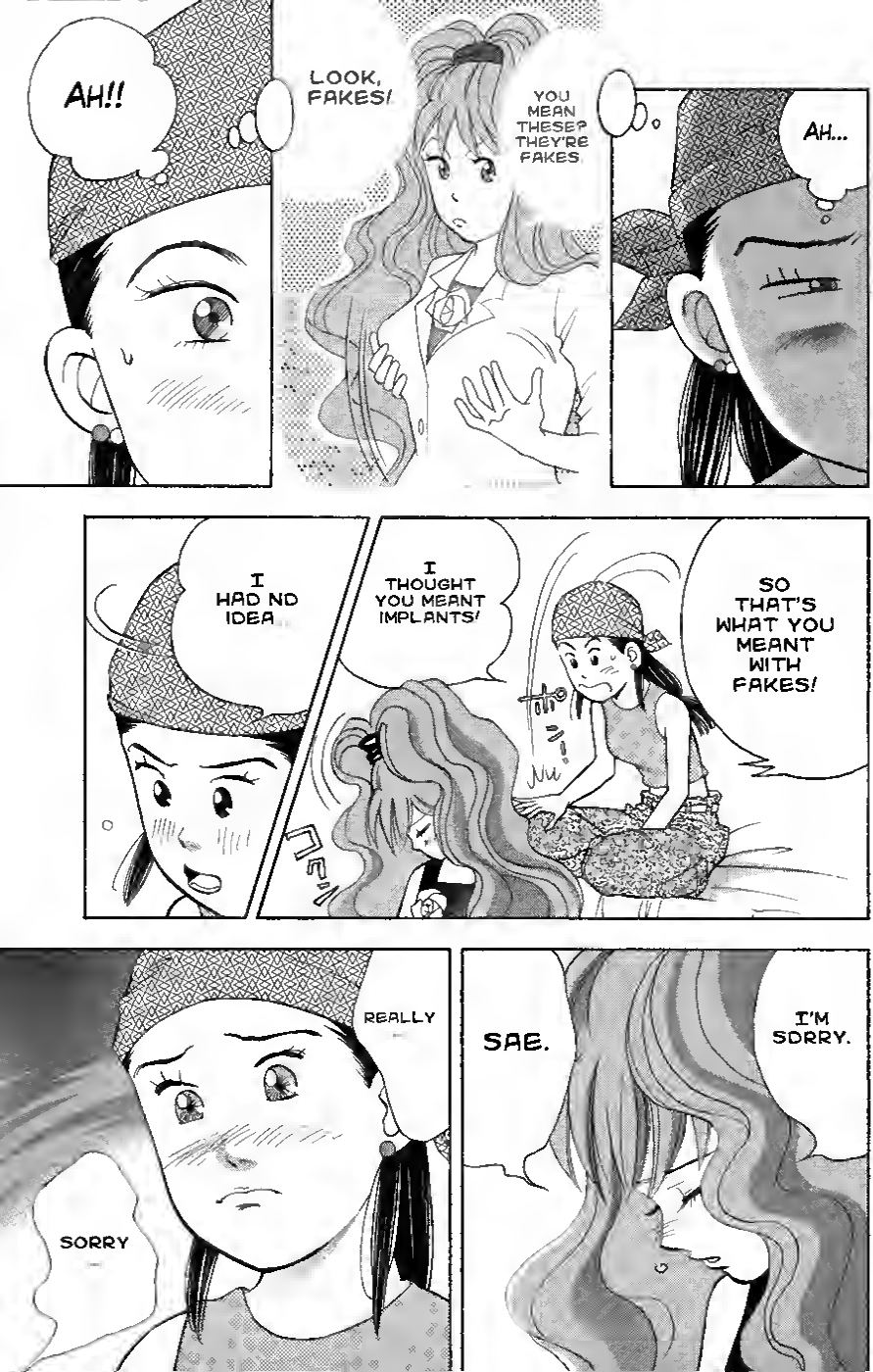




日曜の夜は‥‥② END

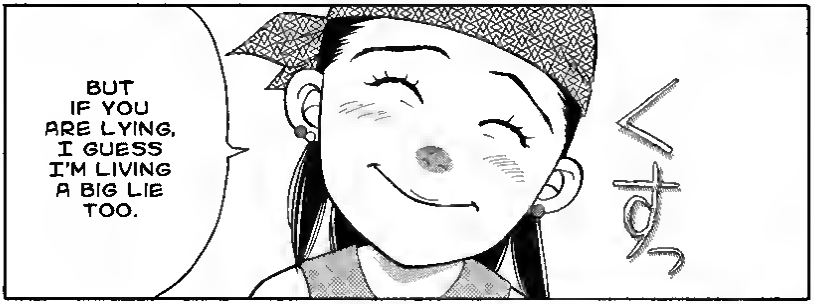
I'M SORRY, SAE.
I TRICKED YOU.
I'M
...A MAN.
有荘
Chapter 75
Confession

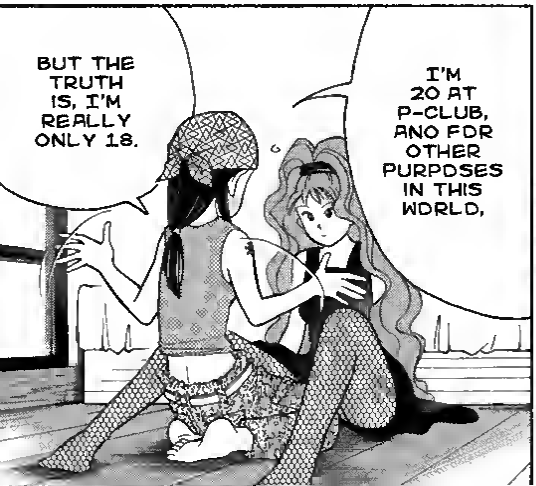
A MAN?
.....
SORRY
MAN MAN MAN
MAN MAN MAN
MAN MAN MAN
MAN MAN MAN
MAN MAN MAN
MARIA IS A MAN?


AH!!
LOOK, FAKES!
YOU MEAN THESE? THEY'RE FAKES
AH...
I HAD NO IDEA...
I THOUGHT YOU MEANT IMPLANTS!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT WITH FAKES!
REALLY...
SORRY...
SAE.
I'M SORRY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE! LIKE THAT!
OH DON'T BE SILLY, MARIA!!
MARIA IS MARIA.
MAN OR WOMAN IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
YOUR GENDER DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL !!!
SAE...

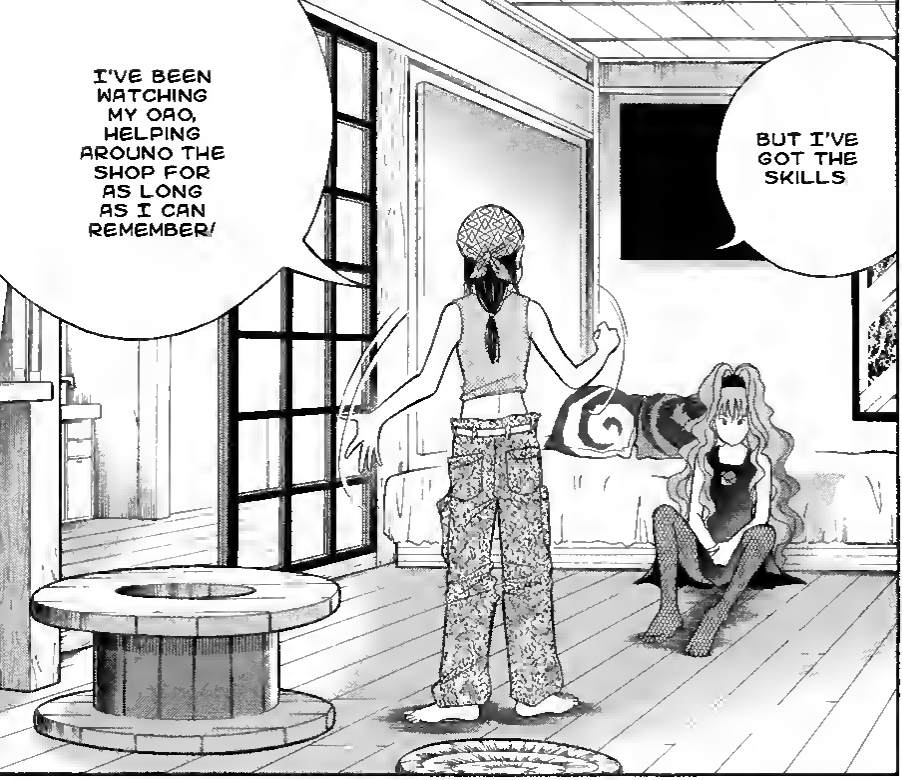
YOU'RE REALLY NOT MAD?
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN LYING TO YOU THIS WHOLE TIME?
YOU REALLY DID HAVE ME FOOLED THROUGH AND THROUGH SILLY ME.
I NEVER SUSPECTED A THING!!
I WOULD'VE NEVER KNOWN, IF YOU HADN'T SAID ANY-THING

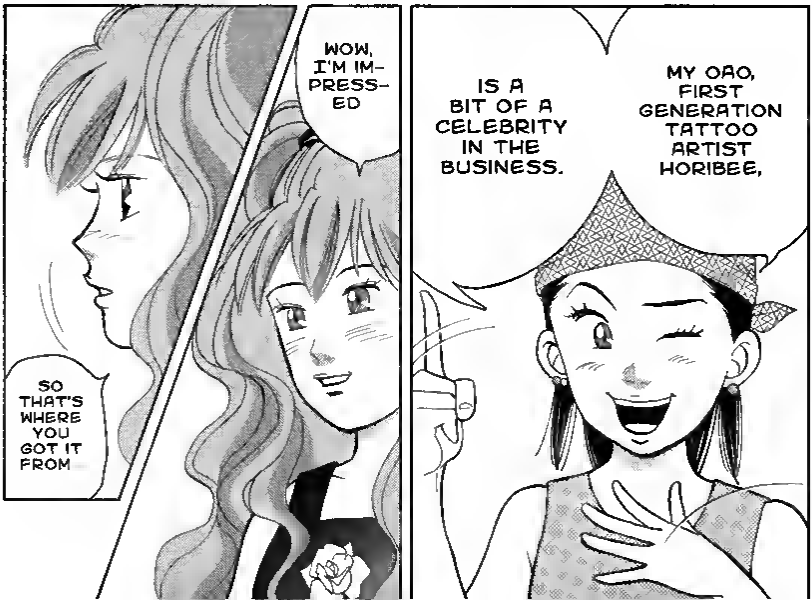

BUT IF YOU ARE LYING, I GUESS I'M LIVING A BIG LIE TOO.

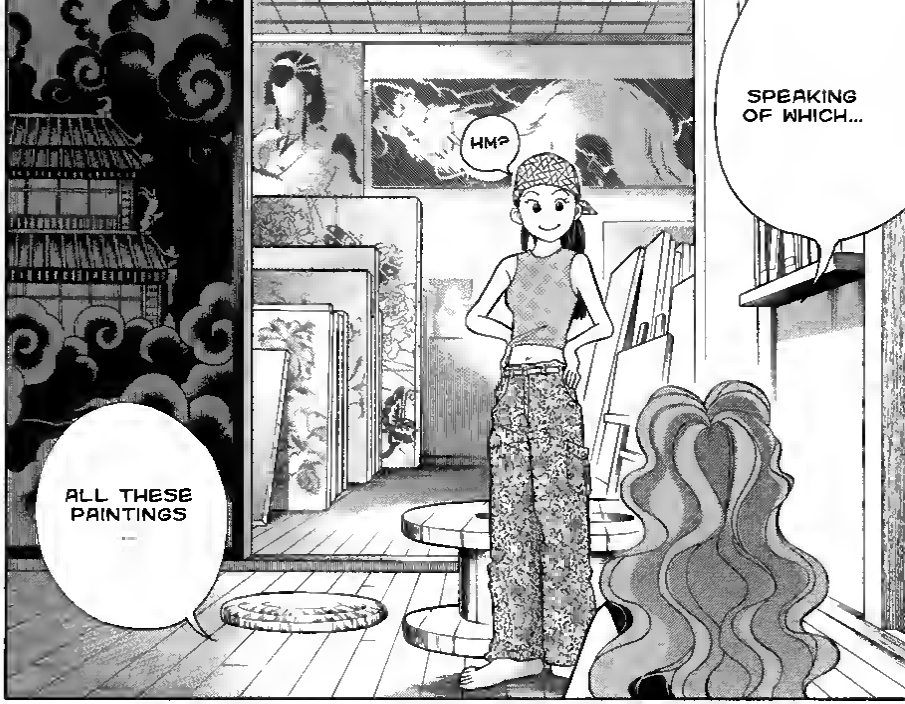

I'M 20 AT P-CLUB, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES IN THIS WORLD,
BUT THE TRUTH IS, I'M REALLY ONLY 18.

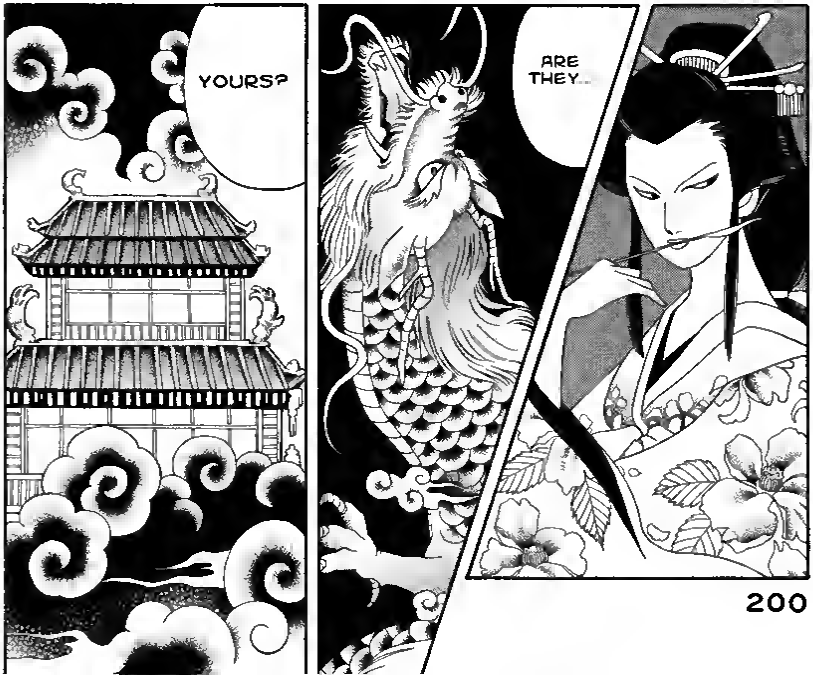
HUH?

EVER SINCE I STARTED WORKING ON MY OWN AT THE AGE OF 15, FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN 20.
18?
IT'S BECAUSE 15 IS TOO YOUNG IN MY LINE OF WORK.
AND THERE ARE A LOT OF RESTRIC-TIONS ON WHERE I CAN GO.
TAKE FOR EXAMPLE P-CLUB, WHICH DOESN'T ALLOW MINORS.
有荘


I'VE BEEN WATCHING MY OAO, HELPING AROUND THE SHOP FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER!
BUT I'VE GOT THE SKILLS


MY OAO, FIRST GENERATION TATTOO ARTIST HORIBEE,
IS A BIT OF A CELEBRITY IN THE BUSINESS.
WOW, I'M IM-PRESS-ED
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU GOT IT FROM

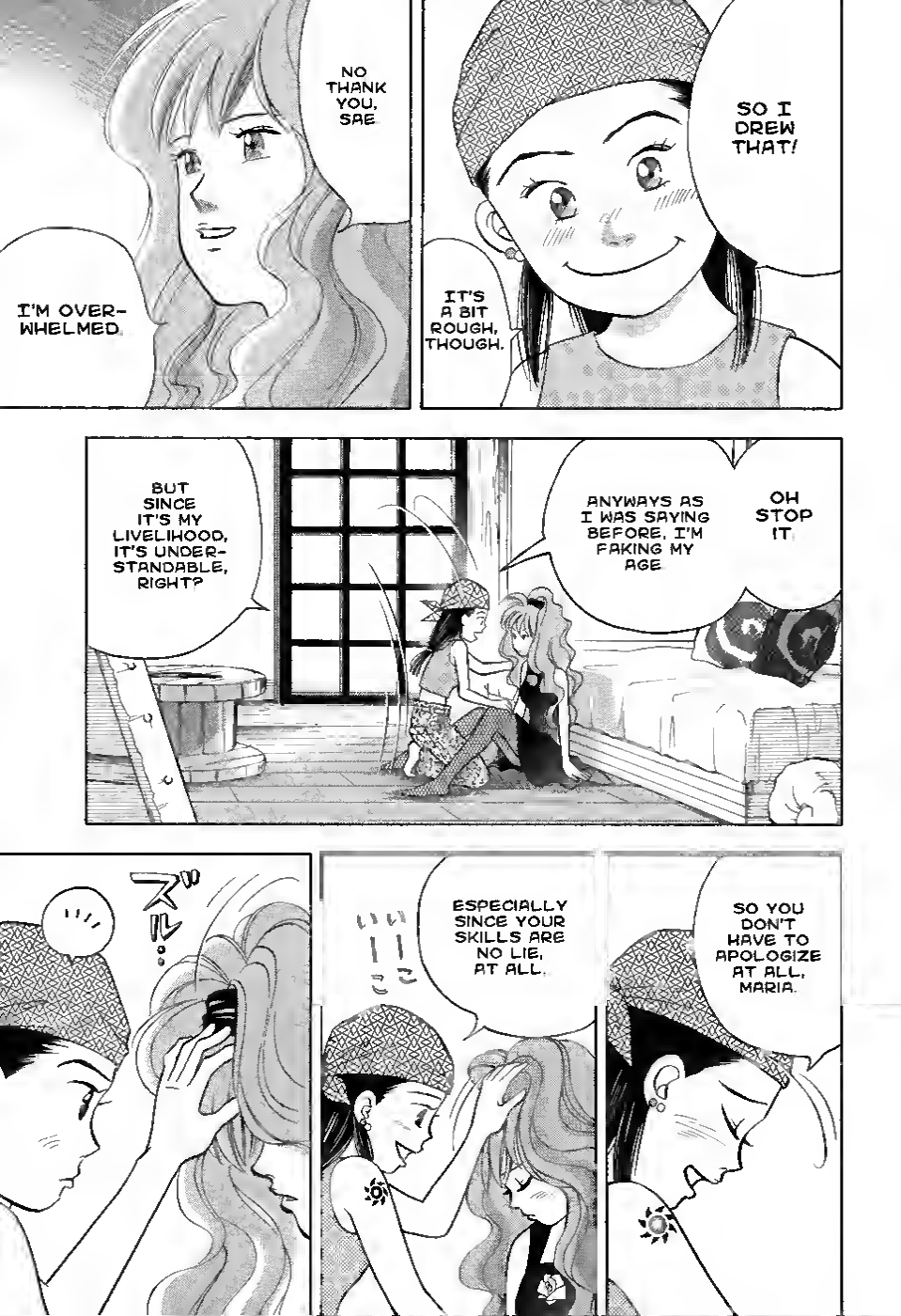

SPEAKING OF WHICH...
HM?
ALL THESE PAINTINGS

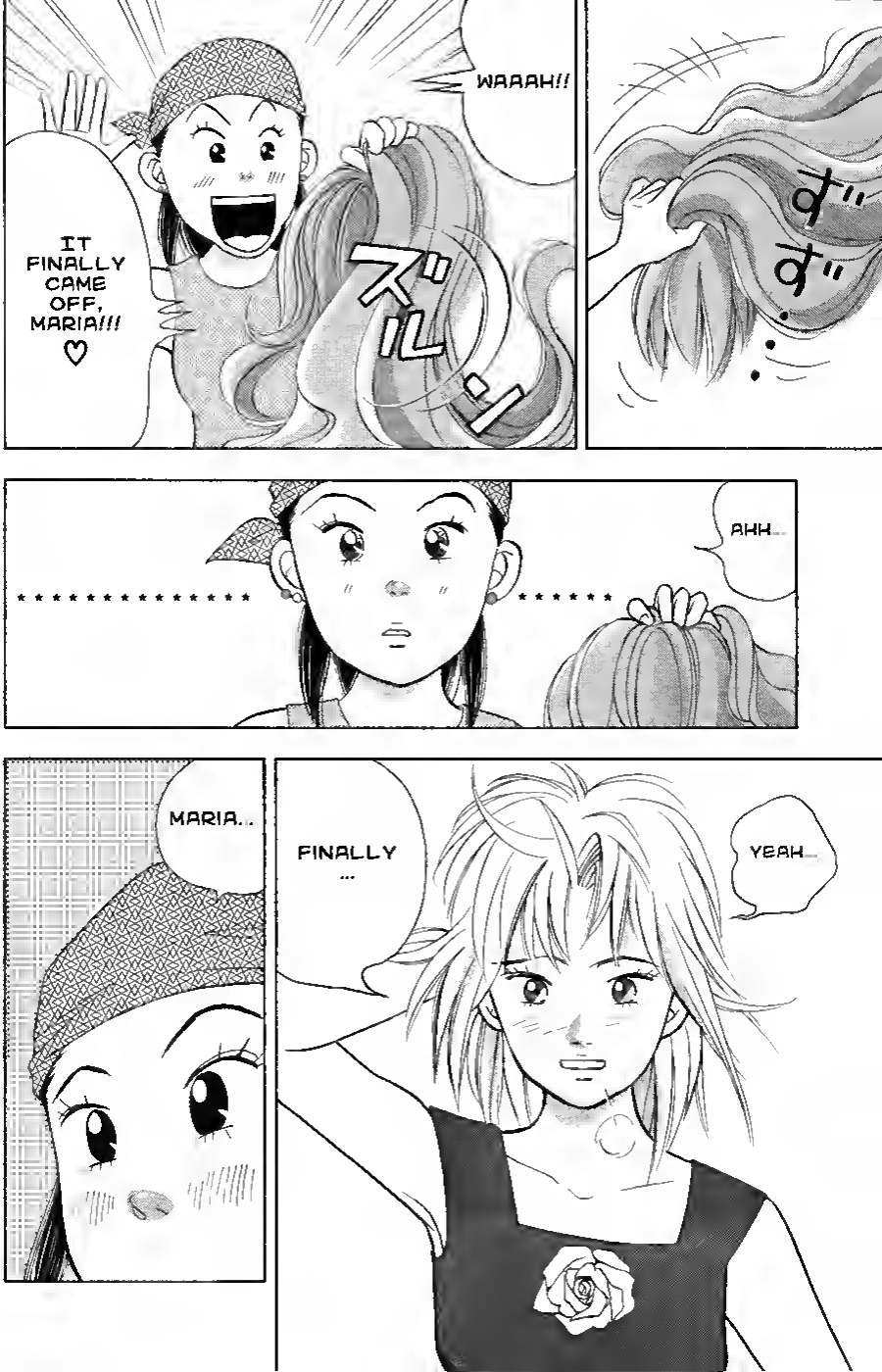

YOURS?
ARE THEY...

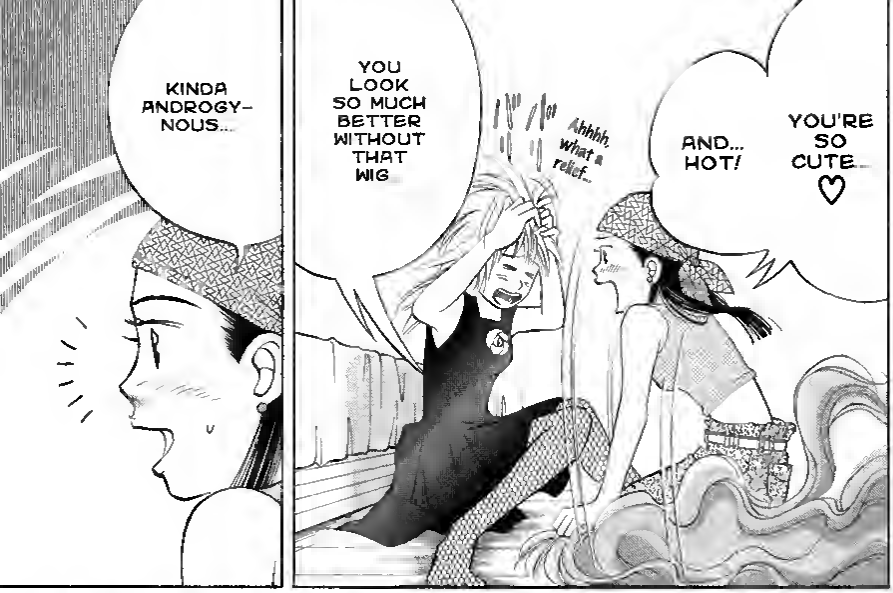
I HAVE A PAINTING OF YOU, TOO.
OH, RIGHT!
WOW!
I PRACTICE EVERY DAY.
YEP.
TADA!
LOOK!
AHH...

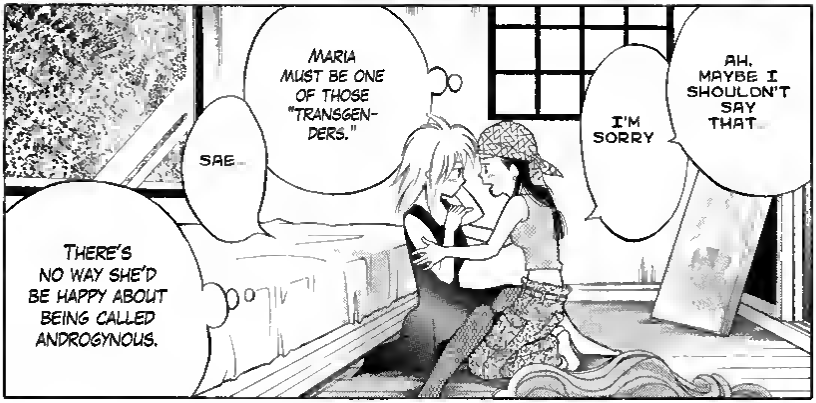
PIANO
A P-
IN THE FOREST...

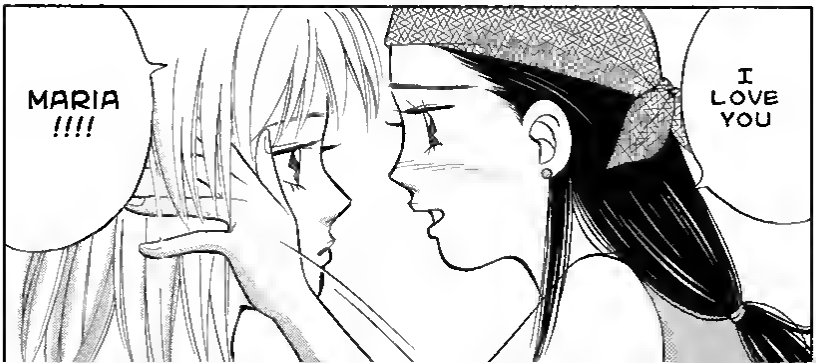
SEE WHENEVER YOU PLAY THE PIANO, IT ALWAYS FEELS LIKE YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY TREES
IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOREST
THAT'S RIGHT
EVEN WHEN I KNOW I'M LISTENING TO YOU PLAY AT THE CLUB,
SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE OUT IN A FOREST

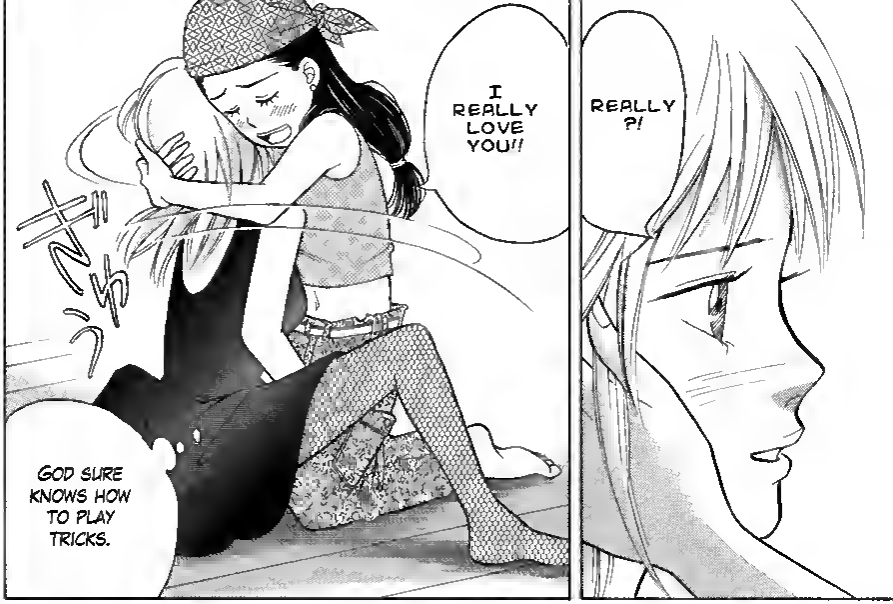

NO THANK YOU, SAE
I'M OVER-WHELMED.
SO I DREW THAT!
IT'S A BIT ROUGH, THOUGH.
OH STOP IT
ANYWAYS AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE, I'M FAKING MY AGE
BUT SINCE IT'S MY LIVELIHOOD, IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE, RIGHT?
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE AT ALL, MARIA.
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOUR SKILLS ARE NO LIE, AT ALL.
ズル


WAAAH!!
IT FINALLY CAME OFF, MARIA!!!
♡
ズル…!
す…
す…
AHH...
MARIA...
FINALLY ...
YEAH...

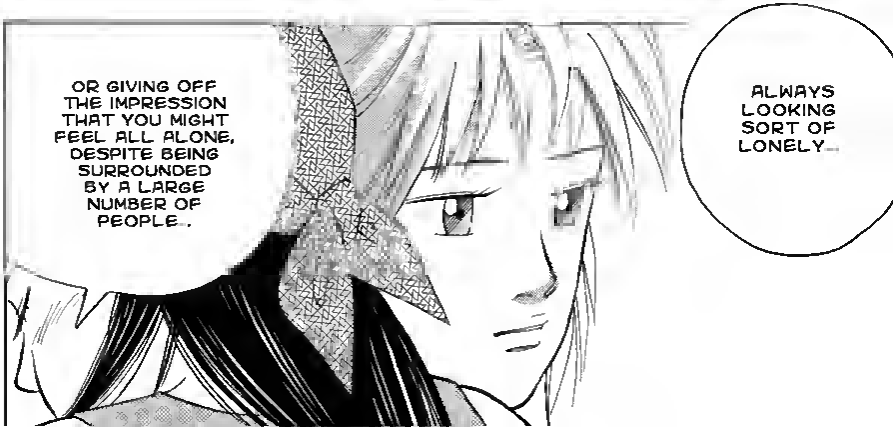

KINDA ANDROGY-NOUS...
YOU LOOK SO MUCH BETTER WITHOUT THAT WIG
Ahhhh, what a relief...
AND... HOT!
YOU'RE SO CUTE...

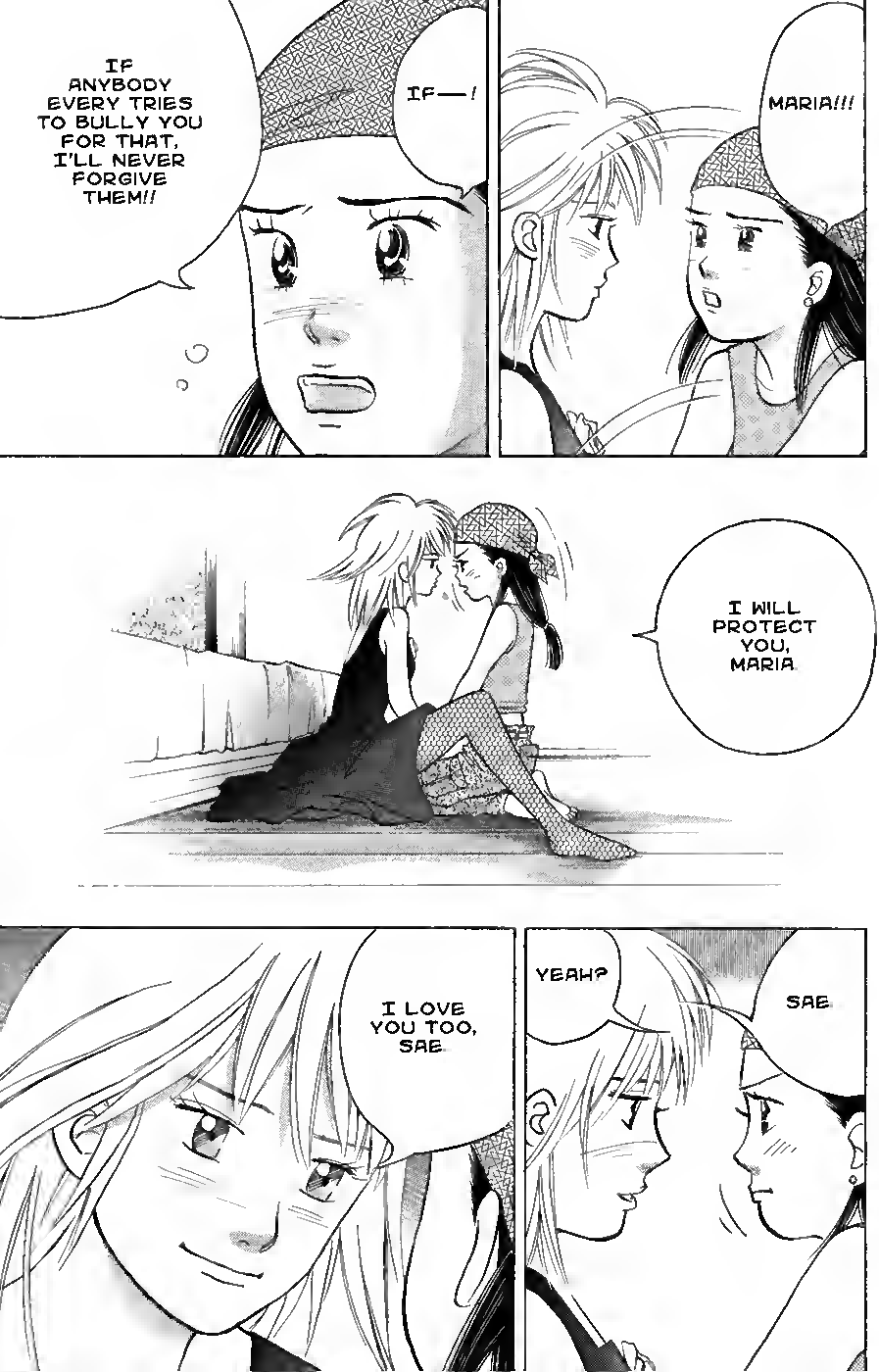

THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D BE HAPPY ABOUT BEING CALLED ANDROGYNOUS.
SAE...
MARIA MUST BE ONE OF THOSE "TRANSGEN-DERS."
I'M SORRY
AH, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T SAY THAT...

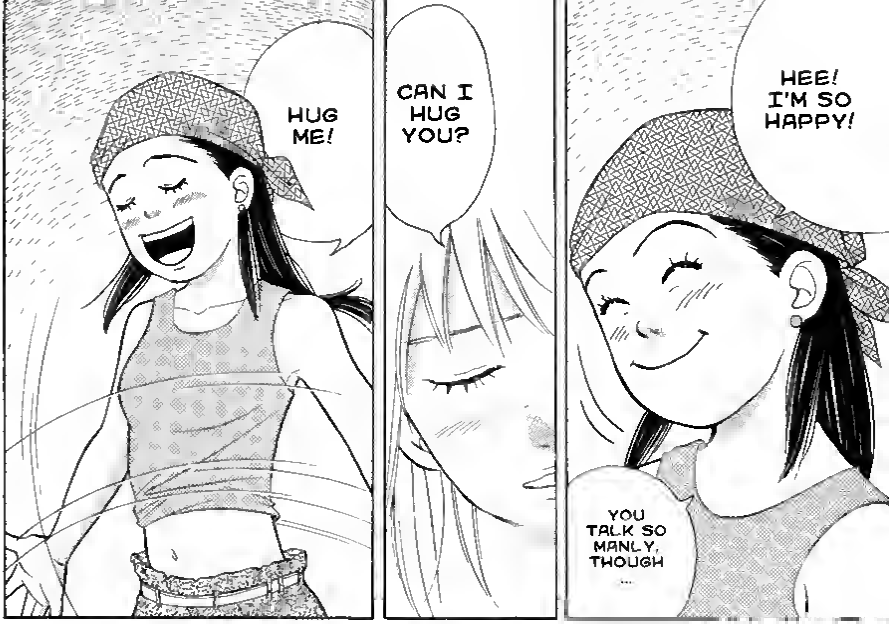

MARIA !!!!
I LOVE YOU


I REALLY LOVE YOU!!
REALLY ?!
GOD SURE KNOWS HOW TO PLAY TRICKS.

YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO EXPLAIN IT... BUT, WHENEVER I'M WITH YOU, I ALWAYS GET THIS SOLEMN, OEPRESSING FEELING...
BUT NOW THAT I KNOW YOUR SECRET... IT FEELS LIKE... I TRULY UNDERSTANO YOU


ALWAYS LOOKING SORT OF LONELY...
OR GIVING OFF THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU MIGHT FEEL ALL ALONE, DESPITE BEING SURROUNDED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE..


IF ANYBODY EVERY TRIES TO BULLY YOU FOR THAT, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THEM!!
IF—!
MARIA!!!
I WILL PROTECT YOU, MARIA.
I LOVE YOU TOO, SAE.
YEAH?
SAE.

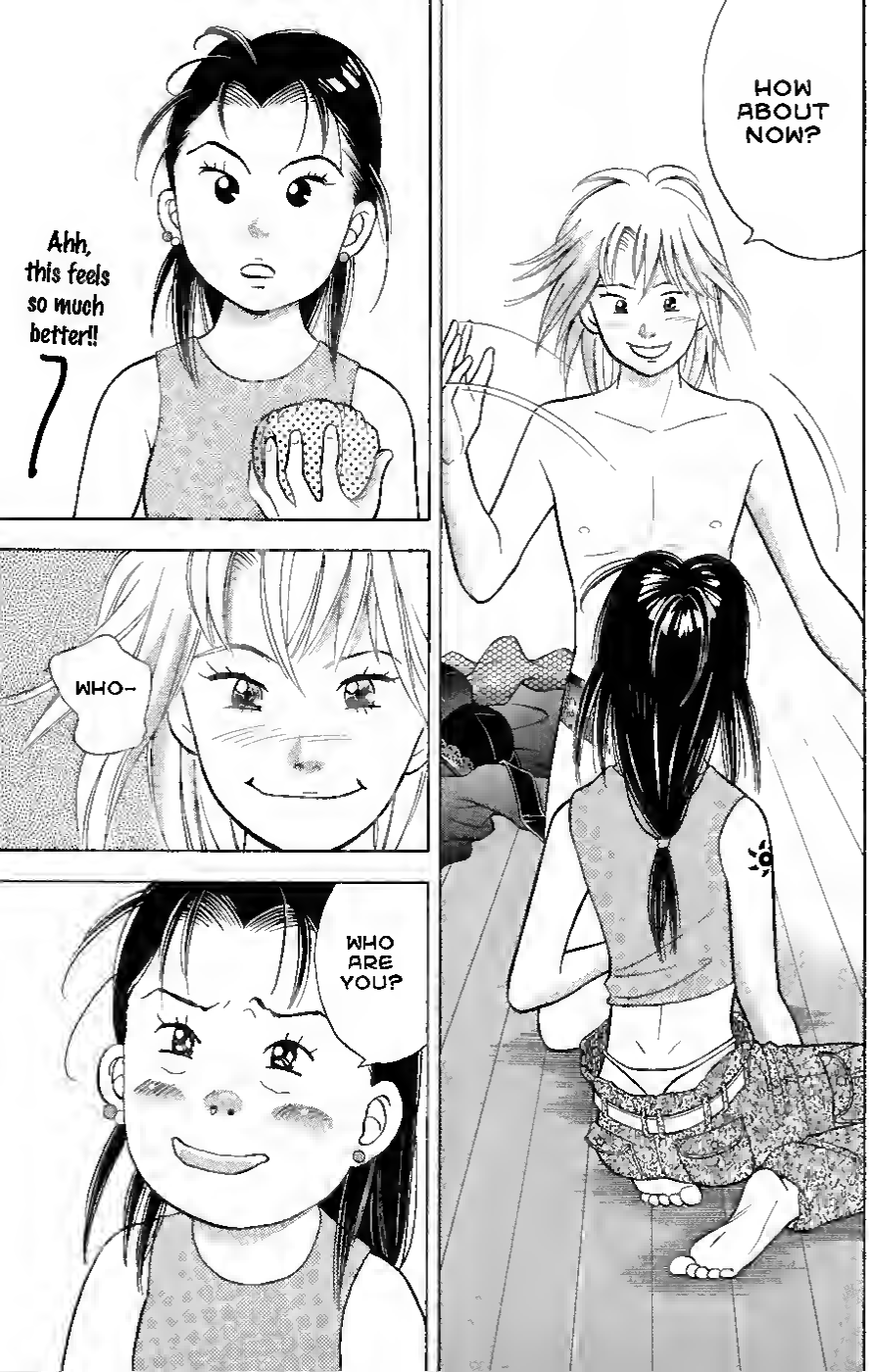

HUG ME!
CAN I HUG YOU?
HEE! I'M SO HAPPY!
YOU TALK SO MANLY, THOUGH ...

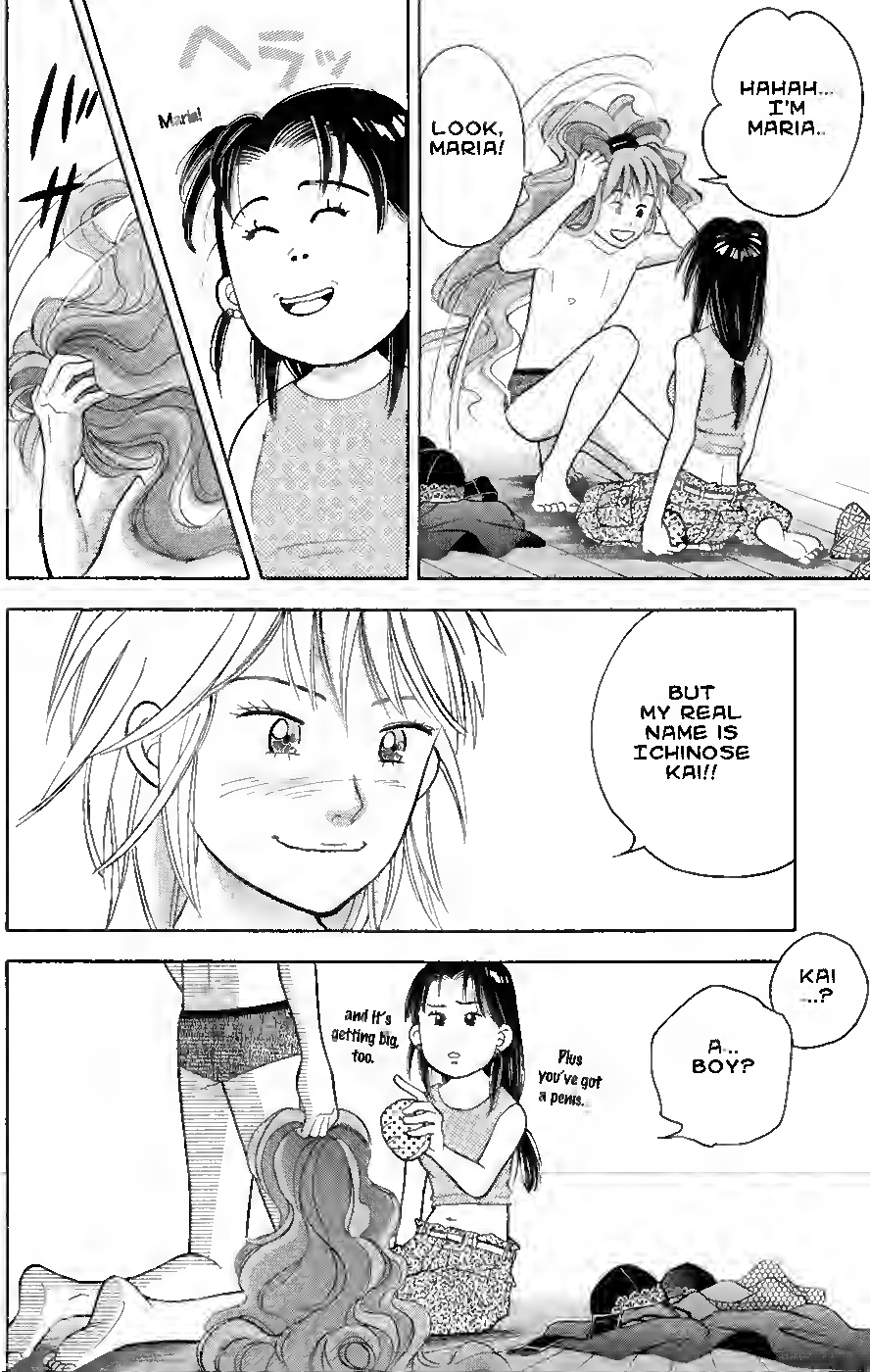
HEY?!

WA-
WAIT-
WAIT A MOMENT!

I REALLY, TRULY LOVE YOU, MARIA BUT I'M NOT READY TO KISS YOU.
WHY NOT?
STOP ONE SECONO!
MARIA!
I KNOW.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, IT WON'T HAPPEN.
LOOK, I'M NOT GAY OR ANY-THING.
WHY NOT? ... WELL THAT'S
STOP IT, I TELL YOU!!
IT'S NOT THAT
NO, LOOK.

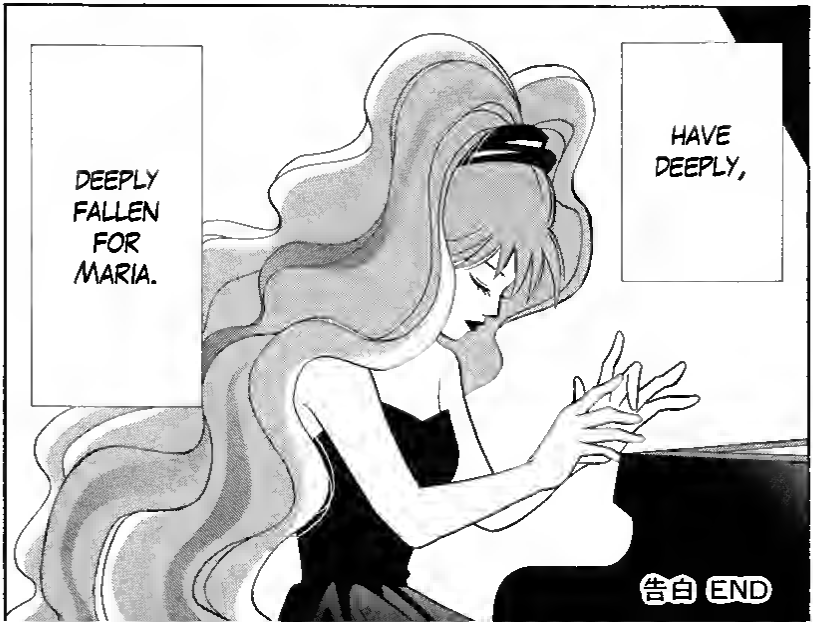
ちゃ
AH! GOTCHA!
BUT WHEN WE'RE BOTH GIRLS, IT'S UH...
IT'S JUST... I'M THINKING WHETHER IT WOULDN'T BE BETTER IF WE'D GONE OUT AS BOY AND GIRL...
SORRY! I COM-PLETELY FORGOT!
...
SQUISH
SQUISH
ポン

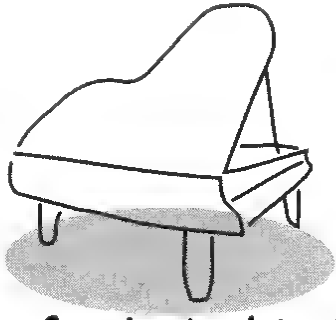

Ahh, this feels so much better!!
WHO-
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW ABOUT NOW?


ヘラッ
Maria!
LOOK, MARIA!
HAHAH... I'M MARIA..
BUT MY REAL NAME IS ICHINOSE KAI!!
KAI ...?
A... BOY?
Plus you've got a penis.
and it's getting big, too.

I'M A MAN.
LIKE I SAID.
A...
REAL MAN?
YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
AH...
M-
MARIA...
IS KAI!
WAIT ...
WAIT A MOMENT.
NO.
I'M NOT WAIT-ING.
T... THIS IS BAD.

I CAN'T RESIST.
BECAUSE I...
PLEASE STOP.
STOP IT.


HAVE DEEPLY,
DEEPLY FALLEN FOR MARIA.
告白 END



The Perfect World of KAI

楽譜提供／全音楽譜出版

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取材協力／初代・稔和(文身師)

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